
2019 Evolution Report

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Apostolic Work of the Ignatian Way - OACI

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Inaziotar Bidea
Camino Ignaciano
Camí Ignasià
Camiño Ignaciano

I. PRESENTATION

For yet another year, the Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way briefly presents an approximation of the evolution that this Ignatian pilgrimage has experienced throughout 2019. Once again, and this time with a special accent, we must emphasize that all the data contained in this report depend exclusively on the official pilgrim register of Manresa, the final arrival point. According to the data collected in Loyola, the start of the pilgrimage, on the number of people who have requested information to start the Ignatian Way, or who have collected credentials at the Shrine of Loyola, we estimate that pilgrims who have started the Camino in 2019 are around 650. Why are they not included in the final register? Most certainly because some have not reached the end and do the Camino in stages. But we also have evidence of groups, such as the group of 40 pilgrims formed by the diocese of Guipúzcoa, who do not collect the final certificate, and for that reason do not appear as pilgrims in the database. Taking into account these deviations, we have to accept that the registration of pilgrims has decreased this year with respect to the previous one. This data, again, does not coincide with the activity recorded by the Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way: if 2018 ended with 3 organized pilgrimages, in 2019 there were 8, which is more than double the increase.

It is surprising how few Spanish pilgrims are present on the Ignatian Way. If one thinks that foreigners would be more reluctant to set out on the Camino in a territory that is culturally and linguistically foreign, the percentage of national pilgrims would be much higher than that of foreigners. As is normal, the autonomous communities that stand out are Catalonia and the Basque Country. Attracting more national pilgrims should be a short-term objective. We insist on the need to make the existence of the Camino more widely known. It is necessary to study how to promote and publicize the existence of the Ignatian Way and its particular characteristics (historical, Ignatian, solitary, with very accessible relief variations and varied landscapes, very abundant Marian presence along the route...).

If we look at the gender difference, we can say that the percentages are still very similar between men and women. Likewise, the ages are fairly evenly distributed between young people and adults, but there is a clear predominance in this 2019 to the adult public and with greater economic resources: the Camino Ignaciano is still an adventure that requires preparation and a certain economic power, since the hostels of 10 euros are scarce, the transport of luggage is not developed and the pilgrim menu, so useful on the Camino de Santiago, does not yet exist in the Camino Ignaciano. On the other hand, the fact that the majority of pilgrims are in the adult age group suggests that quality tourism will develop around the resource that the Camino represents. Hopefully this forecast will be fulfilled and will bring the benefit of local development that every pilgrimage route offers.

In 2019, Father General of the Society of Jesus has already announced the celebration of the Ignatian Year 2021-2022. In this year many activities will be promoted against the background of the conversion of Ignatius of Loyola, which began in some way with the battle of Pamplona against the French (May 1521), in which he was wounded. This Ignatian Year will be extended for the Jesuits until July 31, 2022. Regarding the Ignatian Way, the big date is between February and March 2022, when 500th anniversary of his departure from Loyola, the place of his birth, will be celebrated.

conversion, and its arrival in Manresa, the place of illumination. The Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way is preparing to celebrate these 500 years by promoting the resource that the Way represents and to help as much as possible to create religious tourism and pilgrimage products that consolidate this pilgrimage as a reference within this sector of social activity. The strength of the Ignatian Way lies in its historical value, and in the experience of personal transformation that the pilgrim can live together with Ignatius of Loyola, walking the more than 650 km that link his maternal home with the city that welcomed him in his initial transformation. More than 2,500 pilgrims, registered and anonymous, have lived this experience in recent years and we hope that the number of participants and beneficiaries of the Camino will continue to grow.

The Pilgrim's Office is organizing itself to be able to offer better services to individual pilgrims and groups that request our help. The new website inaugurated in 2019 makes it easier for us to offer all the necessary information in a more agile and organized way. the assessment so far is very positive: it is visual, easy to navigate, with the necessary information of more direct access, many more photos and news to get a better idea of the evolution of the Ignatian Way.

Having surpassed the barrier of 2000 pilgrims registered in Manresa, we are confident that further promotion of the resource and an improvement in accommodation will allow us to continue growing towards 2022 and reach more than 3000 pilgrims registered on those dates of Ignatian celebration of the Camino. The constant gratitude of the pilgrims and the enthusiasm that moves us to make this pilgrimage a reference for the future, encourages us to continue betting to the maximum. The public administrations, both community and local, are pointing in the same direction, signing collaboration agreements that augur a future of consolidation. It is everyone's responsibility and we are working on it.

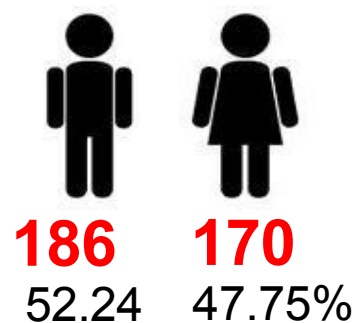
P. Josep Lluís Iriberry, sj.

Director of the Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way Apostolic

Work of the Ignatian Way (OACI)

II. GENERAL DATA ON PILGRIMAGES BETWEEN JANUARY AND DECEMBER 2019

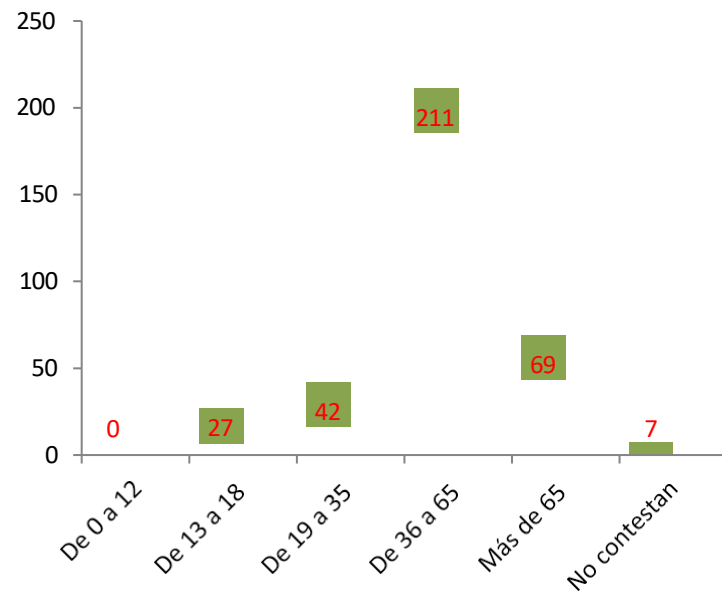
By gender



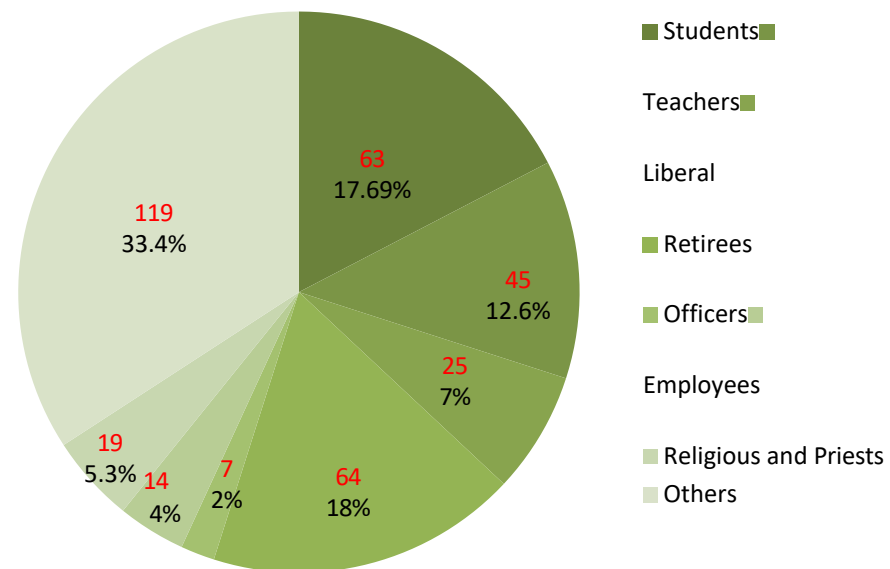
Number of registered pilgrims in the pilgrim's office database



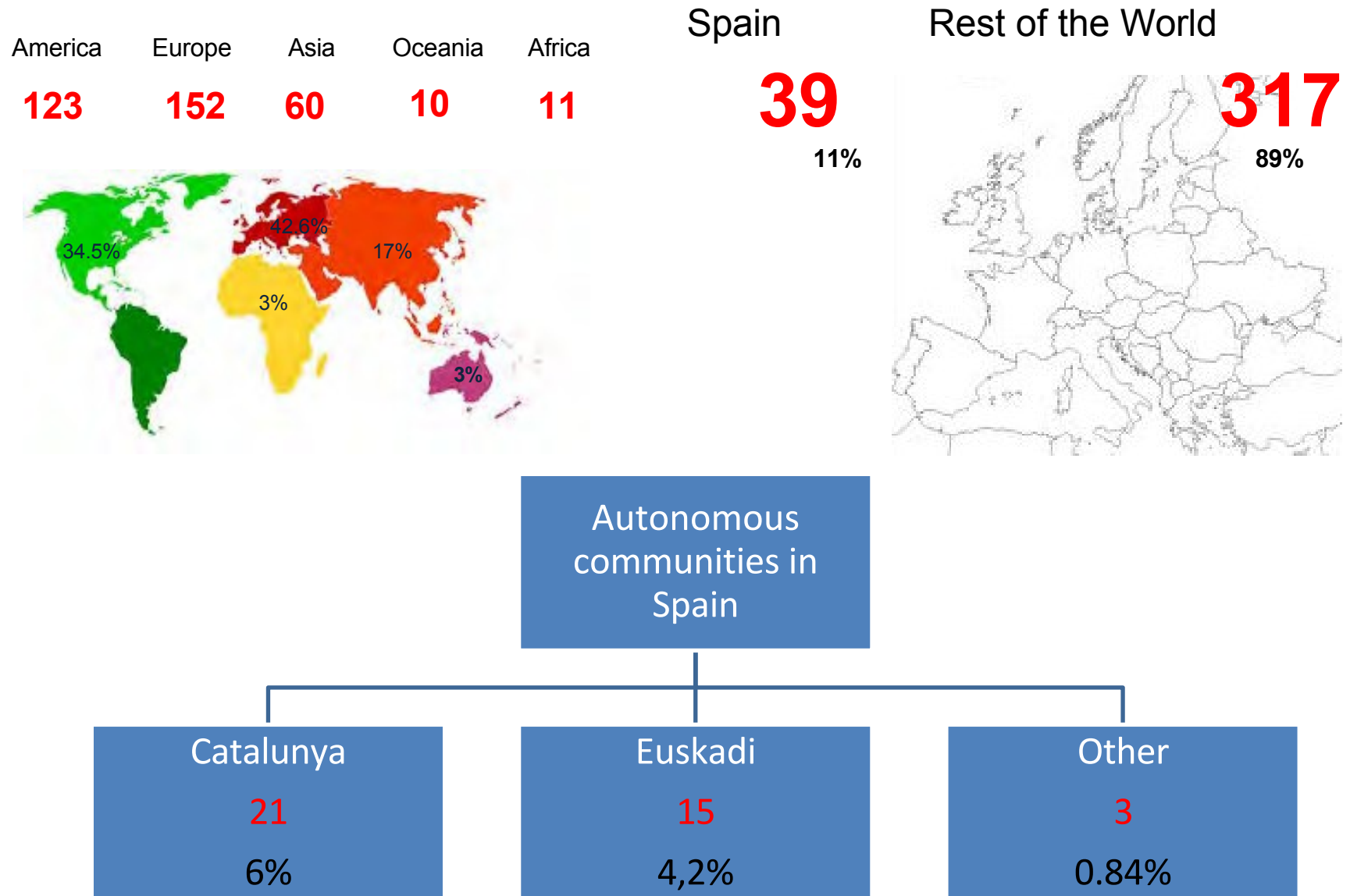
By age group



By profession



Origin of pilgrims

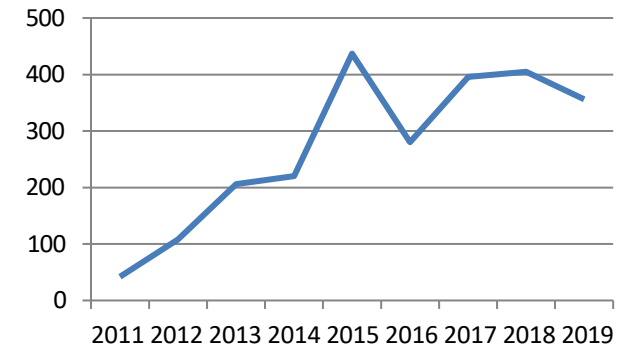


Comparison of pilgrimages

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
42	108	206	221	443	280	396	405	356

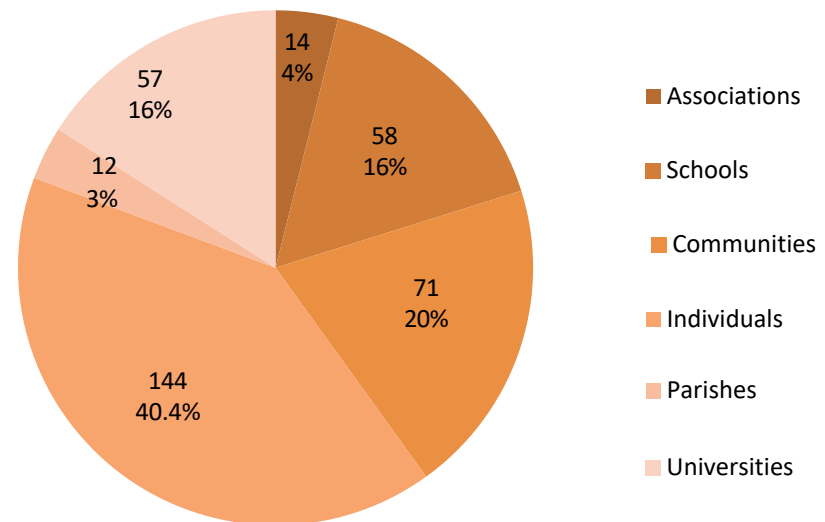
Cumulative total: 2,457

Evolution of the pilgrimages per year

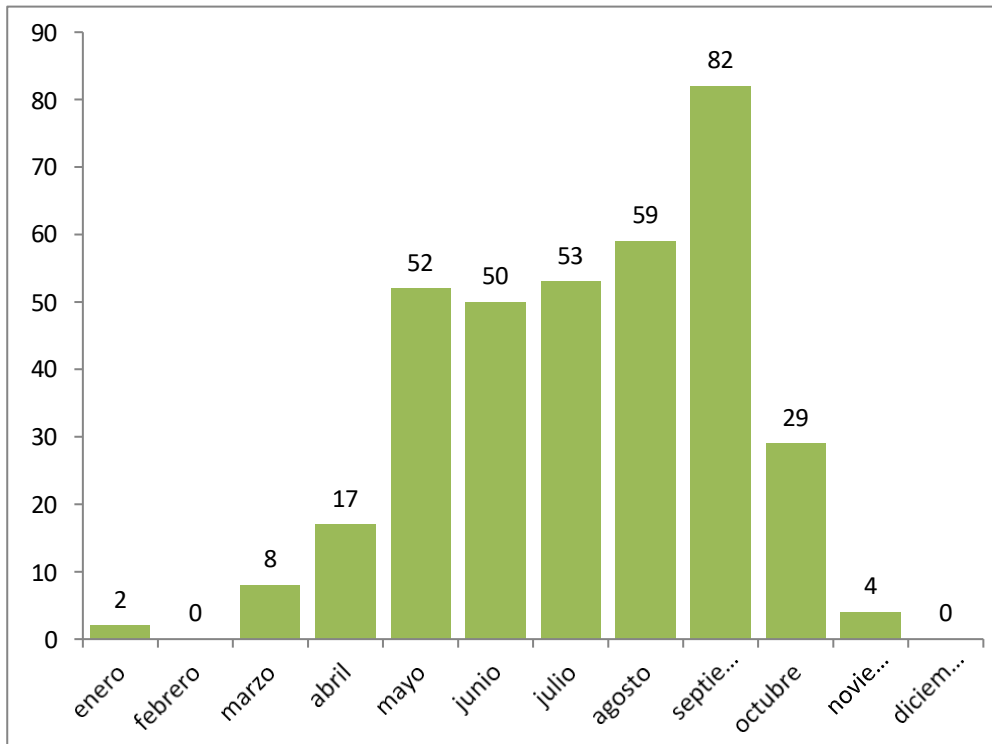


In 2019, the institution that presents the pilgrim

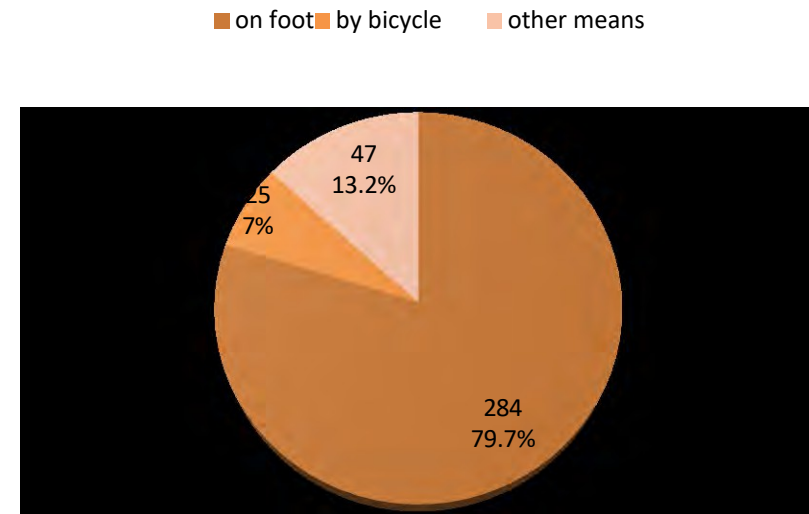
Associations	Colleges	Communities
14	58	71
Individuals	Parishes	Universities
144	12	57



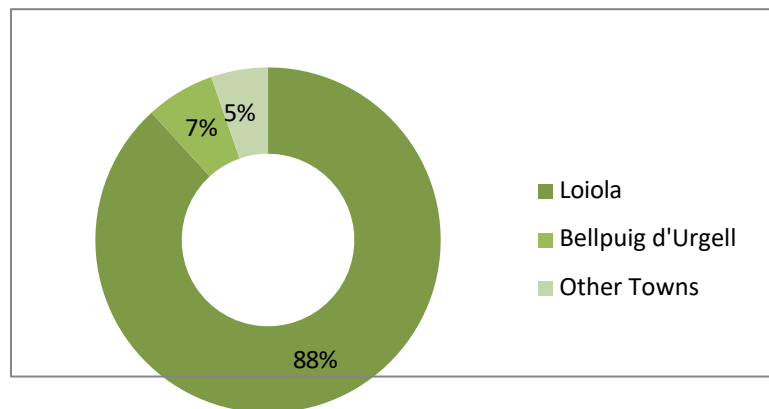
Starting month



How to make the pilgrimage



Starting point



Reason for the pilgrimage

