
Evolution Report 2018

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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

In this document, the Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way briefly presents an approximation of the evolution experienced by this Ignatian pilgrimage throughout 2018. This document presents the data elaborated from our database in Manresa, the arrival point of the Camino. As every year, we want to expose the difficulty in obtaining total final data that respond to the real arrival of pilgrims: we have noted once again that there are pilgrims who do not pass through the pilgrim reception tourist office and do not leave their references. We encourage you to correct this tendency and invite all pilgrims to register at the end of the Camino.

As can be seen in the attached graphs, once again the final number of pilgrims exceeds that of the previous year. Even so, the variation is small and that makes us think that we have to improve for 2019. There is room for improvement in the field of marketing, promotion, publicity about 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...). There are also possible improvements in services to pilgrims: we continue to receive good news from private initiatives in terms of accommodation, but we are still far from meeting the needs in specific points such as Los Monegros, in Aragon. Other services required, such as the transfer of backpacks or inexpensive catering (simple menus adapted to pilgrims and their schedules), are still to be developed. We are well aware that patience is necessary: the Camino Jacobeo has been patient for twenty years and this has borne the fruits that can be easily observed today.

The number of pilgrims continues to rise, with a very small increase: 396 pilgrims in 2017 compared to 405 in 2018. It is worth noting, once again, the disparity in figures between the start of the pilgrimage in Loyola and the results obtained in Manresa: there is no doubt that it is therefore necessary to do the Camino in successive years. As we have indicated previously in other activity reports, this fact of making the pilgrimage over several years, and not all at once, occurs in other Ways, such as the French Jacobean Way. As we have already pointed out, in our case, having a very marked beginning (Loyola), not starting in Loyola represents a great loss of meaning, so going to the beginning is a must; but, on the other hand, dedicating a whole month to start in Loyola and finish in Manresa is not exactly an easy task. Dividing the experience into several years seems to be a trend that we are going to see more and more in the flow of pilgrims.

We are already preparing the Jubilee Year 2021-2022, which will recover the memory of the conversion of Ignatius in 1521 and his first pilgrimage following the route marked by the Ignatian Way in 1522. The 500th anniversary commission foresees the organization of cultural, social and spiritual activities to commemorate the event. The Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way is at the service of pilgrims and plans to guide and help organize groups of pilgrims who wish to live the experience during the celebration of the 500th anniversary. A new web page will help to transmit the necessary information.

From the Pilgrim's Office of the Camino Ignaciano we noticed this 2018 an increase in requests for direct information from pilgrims. Almost all of them are individual pilgrims or couples and very rarely groups. New travel agencies specialized in pilgrimages are contacting us for advice.

The socio-political instability of 2018, with changes of government included, has logically affected the development of joint plans with the public administration. 2019 will perhaps be a year of social clarification and that will push towards greater collaboration at all administrative levels.

From the Pilgrim's Office of the Ignatian Way, this 2018 the Camino has been promoted with the publication of the guidebook in French and with a trip to the United States, offering a series of conferences and talks in several cities on the East Coast, from Boston and New York, to Miami, passing through Baltimore and Washington.

There is a pending issue about the promotion of the Ignatian Way in Spain: the two communities that contribute pilgrims to the pilgrimage are the Basque Country and Catalonia. Of course, this result is logical, taking into account the influence of the respective shrines. But it is still shocking that the proportion of the other communities is only 3%.

Once again we congratulate ourselves for the success of the Ignatian Way in Spain, which has already exceeded 2000 pilgrims registered in Manresa. In the previous activity report we set as a challenge for 2018 to overcome the 2000 barrier and it has been achieved. We hope that 2019 will bring us more pilgrims and that the experience will serve for the growth of all the actors present on the Camino.

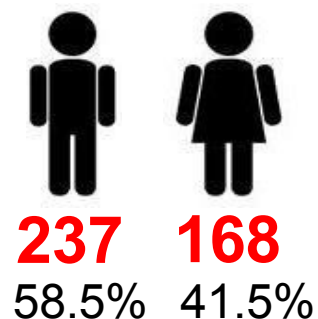
P. Josep Lluís Iriberry, sj.

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 2018

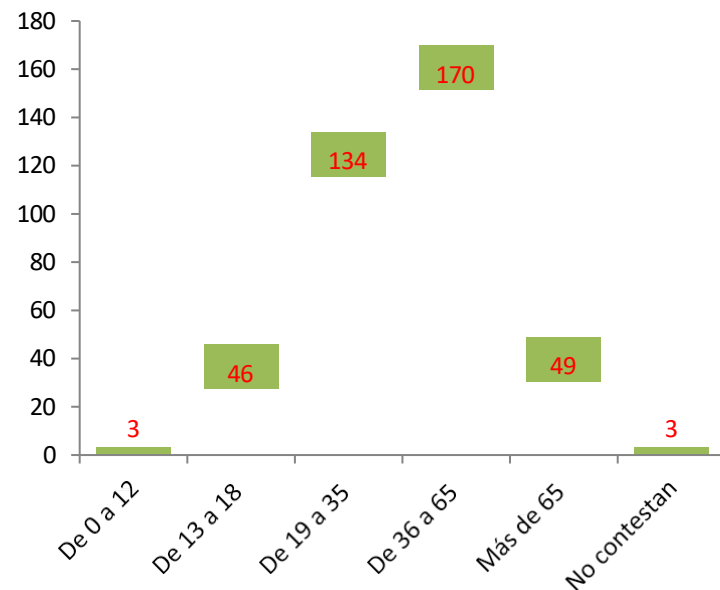
By gender



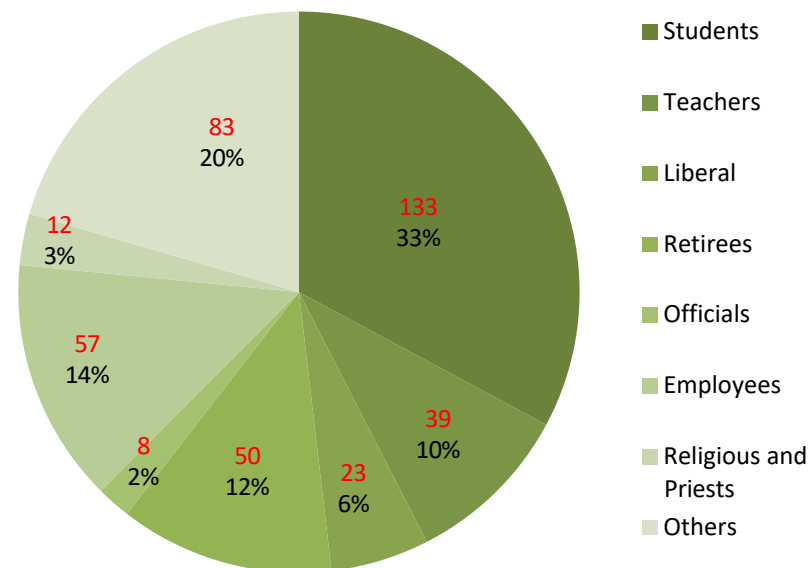
Number of registered pilgrims in the pilgrim's office database



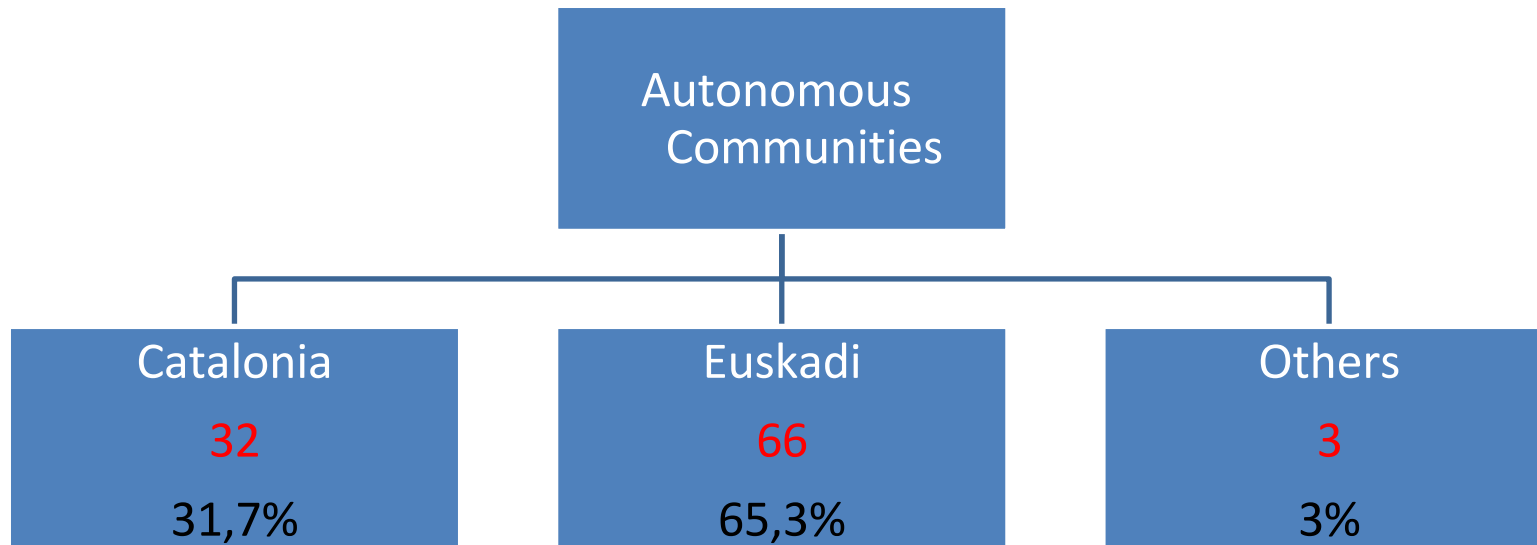
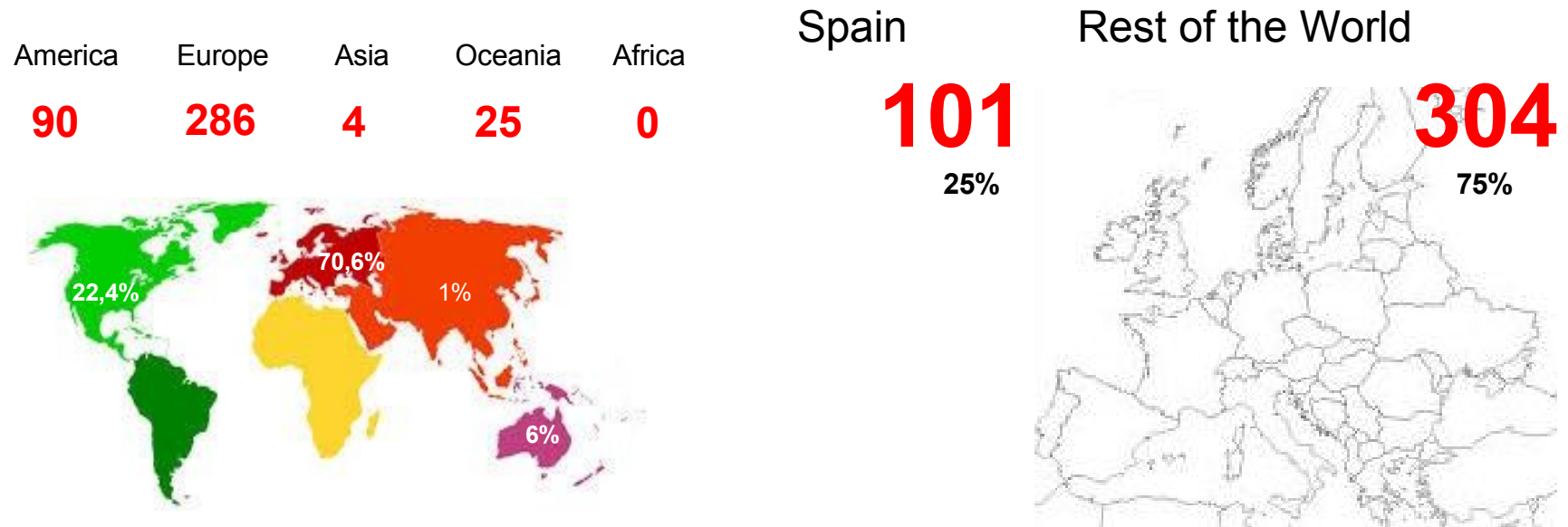
By age group



By profession



Origin of pilgrims

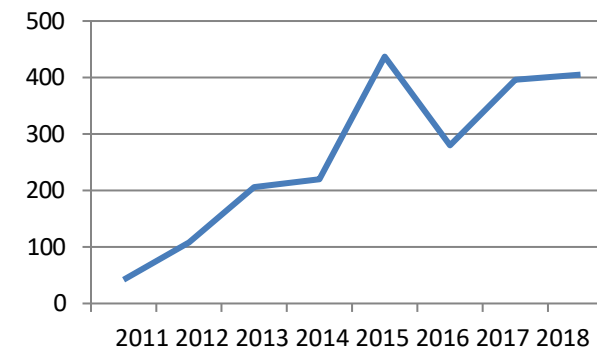


Comparison of pilgrimages

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

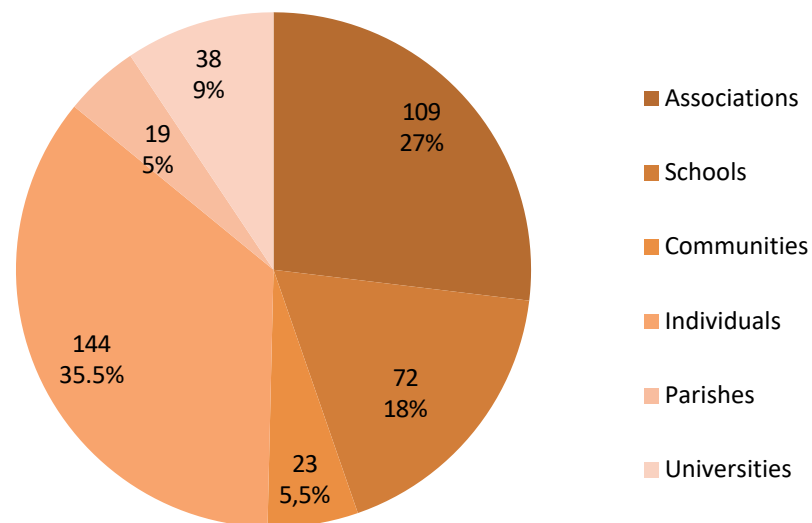
Cumulative total: 2,101

Evolution of pilgrimages per year

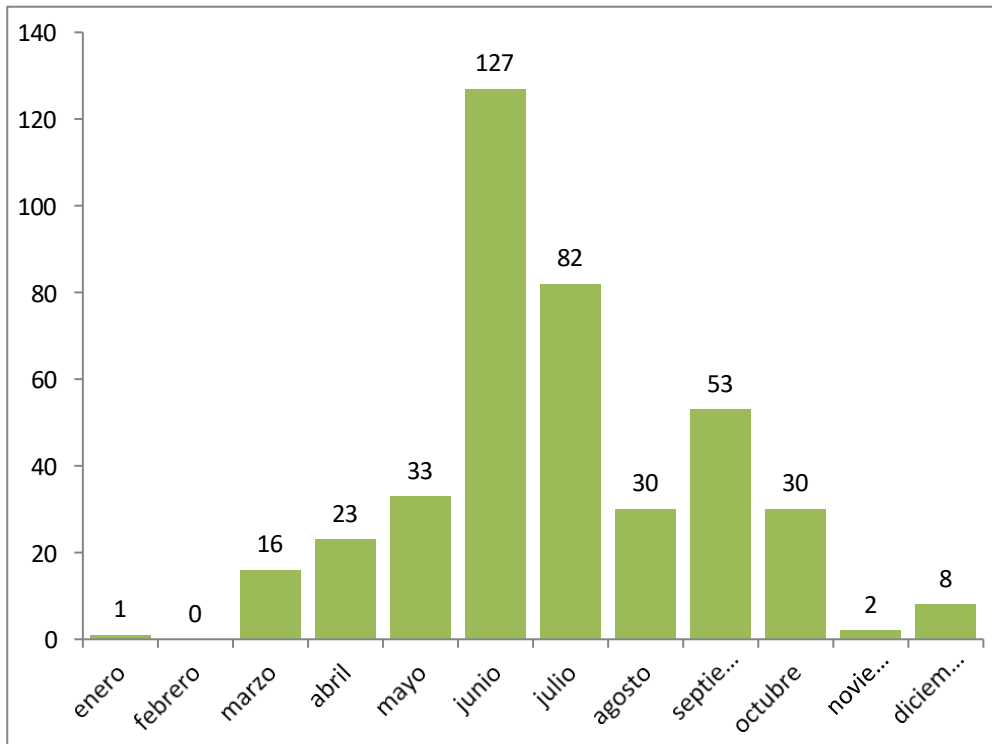


In 2018, the institution that presents the pilgrim

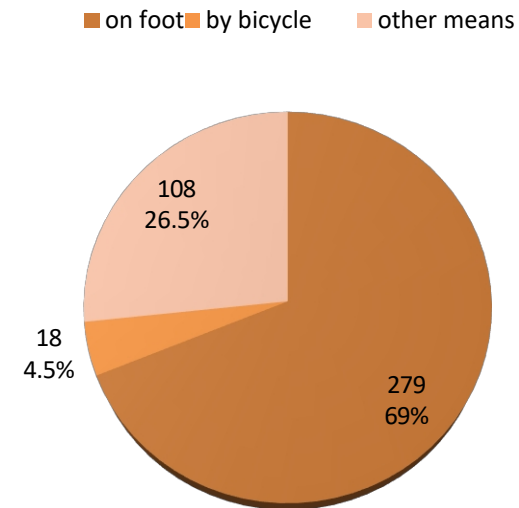
Associations	Schools	Communities
109	72	23
Individuals	Parishes	Universities
144	19	38



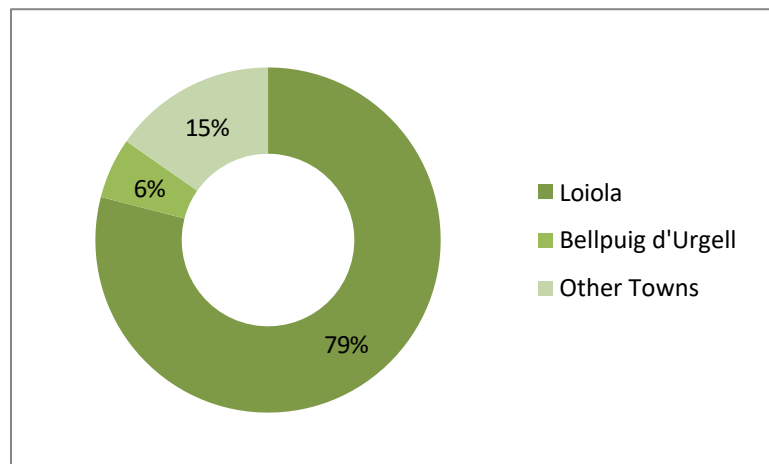
Starting month



How to make the pilgrimage



Starting point



Reason for the pilgrimage

