
2025 Progress Report

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SEZIONE PER LE QUESTIONI FONDAMENTALI
DELL'EVANGELIZZAZIONE NEL MONDO

I. INTRODUCTION

Now that 2025 has passed, we offer an assessment from the Pilgrim's Office of the Society of Jesus in Spain.

The number of pilgrims registered in our active database, which collects testimonies from pilgrims arriving in Manresa, indicates a stabilization, which is not a good sign. The Ignatian Way is largely unknown outside of a few very specific circles linked to the Society of Jesus. Some other pilgrims, former walkers on other routes, are joining the Ignatian group, but they remain a very small minority. No promotion has been undertaken since the breakdown in public administration at the beginning of 2023, so it is unlikely that we can increase the numbers. We see the same evolutionary pattern repeating itself as the Camino de Santiago. In the first ten years of its modern development, it didn't even reach 10,000 pilgrims annually, but once the public administration became decisively involved, the numbers began to rise year after year, reaching the hundreds of thousands we see now, 35 years later. Without public support, the private sector also lacks incentives, jeopardizing the consolidation of a route like the Ignatian Way. Without support, we will remain a niche experience for only a few hundred people. It's worth noting that the Ignatian Way still hasn't been able to establish a governance structure to take charge of developing a pilgrimage product, similar to the Jacobean Council, and to improve services and promote it. Even so, a glimmer of hope seems to be emerging through local initiatives by municipalities and also from the regional government of Catalonia, which wishes to form a working group to assist in the celebration of the third Jubilee Year of the Ignatian Way in 2029. A finalized Strategic Plan proposal is expected this year, 2026, to help focus and coordinate efforts at all levels.

The Association of Municipalities of the Ignatian Way (AMCI), created in early 2025 to jointly promote family and local tourism along the Ignatian route, leveraging the Ignatian Way brand, is an initiative that should bear fruit over time. For now, the association has been consolidating its position and will be officially presented to the tourism industry at the FITUR 2026 tourism fair in Madrid. Throughout 2026, AMCI will work to address the needs of local tourism development in towns and villages that currently lack appeal but, with adequate funding and coordination, could benefit from the tourism industry generated by the emergence of attractions such as the "Jacobean" or "Ignatian Way" brands.

The pilgrim figures presented in this progress report are limited to data collected at the Pilgrim's Office, with assistance from the Manresa Tourist Office, which provides initial pilgrim reception. As in previous years, our progress report only includes pilgrims who complete the written form and provide their information. We remain uncertain about the number of pilgrims who have arrived in Manresa, the final destination of the Ignatian Way, but have not filled out the form. Perhaps we are talking about an additional 100 to 150 pilgrims to add to the statistics, but how can we be sure? In our office, for example, we know of the group of 24 pilgrims from Fordham University in New York who came in October, but they are not in the database, which means they didn't register, so we can't include them.

As the graphs show, the Ignatian Way is mostly international, and its presence in Spanish society is minimal. Even so, it seems that Spanish society is becoming more aware of the Ignatian Way, because the percentage of pilgrims has increased from 8% in 2024 to 16% of the total in 2025. On the other hand, we see that a mixed style of pilgrimage is emerging: walking some part of the Way, but mostly using public or private transportation to shorten stages

and reduce the total distance of the Camino to about 10 days. These are the pilgrims we say use other means to complete their pilgrimage, and they turn out to be the foreigners who plan their travel time in just a few days. In this report, we offer some additional data that we collected in 2025.

Some other things happened in 2025:

1. We joined the international Jesuit Pilgrimage network, an app managed by the Jesuit Curia in Rome to promote pilgrimages and discover Ignatian sites. Each location on the app that marks a stage of the Ignatian Way includes a direct link to our website. <https://jesuitpilgrimage.app/>
2. Last October, within the framework of the Global Tourism Forum in Brussels, PilgriMaps was awarded the 2025 World Tourism Award for Best Digital Tourism Experience. The ICAO – Pilgrim's Office collaborates with this tourism promotion company, as can be seen here: <https://www.pilgrimaps.com/es/camino-ignaciano/> As they point out in their press release, “this recognition celebrates our commitment to transforming cultural and spiritual tourism through storytelling, technology, and heritage, turning each journey into a bridge between people, traditions, and cultures.” We congratulate them on this award.
3. In June and September, we received recognition for the Ignatian Way from the Vatican, in two of its dicasteries or ministries: the Dicastery for Evangelization and the Dicastery for Culture and Education. For us, this endorsement represents an endorsement of our mission, from the perspective of religious and spiritual tourism, which has an impact on the cultural, educational, and evangelizing spheres. Naturally, we are also delighted with this recognition.
4. And to say that the future prospects are not bad, even though we are not achieving mass tourism, which is not the goal either. From the Office, we have helped organize nine international pilgrimages, with groups of pilgrims from parishes, schools, related institutions, and Christian communities. This pace has remained constant for the last two years and will be repeated in 2026. The fact that the Camino is alive is also evidenced by the five groups that have already requested assistance to organize their pilgrimage in 2027, who will join the more than 4,300 pilgrims who have experienced this journey so far.

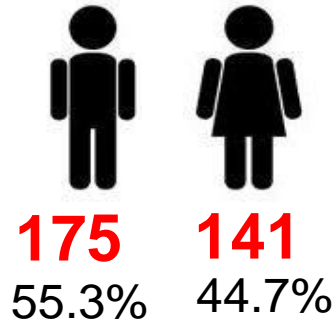
For our part, we continue with our mission to consolidate this pilgrimage linked to the experience of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, hoping that one day all public administrations will begin to believe in the future of the Ignatian Way and provide the resources to make it known, so that the services so necessary for pilgrims can be developed along the route. We are aiming for 2029, which is the next goal to achieve.

P. Josep Lluís Iriberry, sj. – Director de la Obra Apostólica Camino Ignaciano (OACI) – Oficina del Peregrino del Camino Ignaciano.

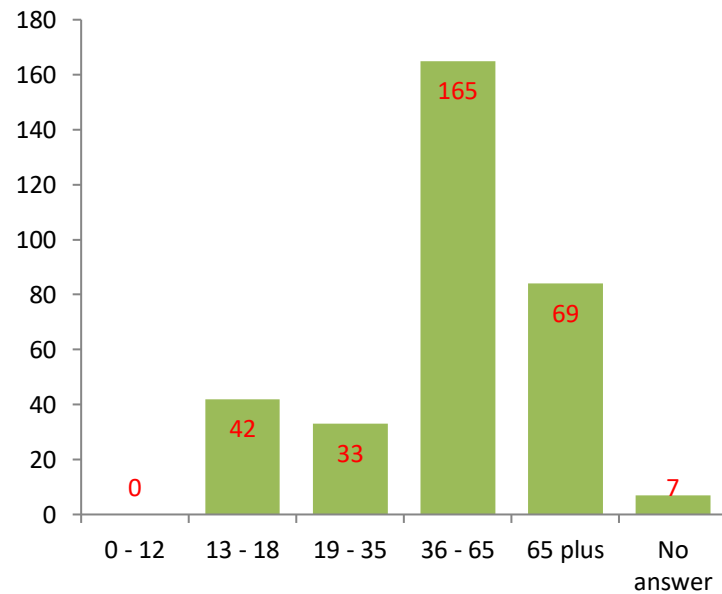
II. GENERAL DATA ON PILGRIMAGES BETWEEN JANUARY AND DECEMBER 2025

Number of pilgrims registered in the pilgrim's office database

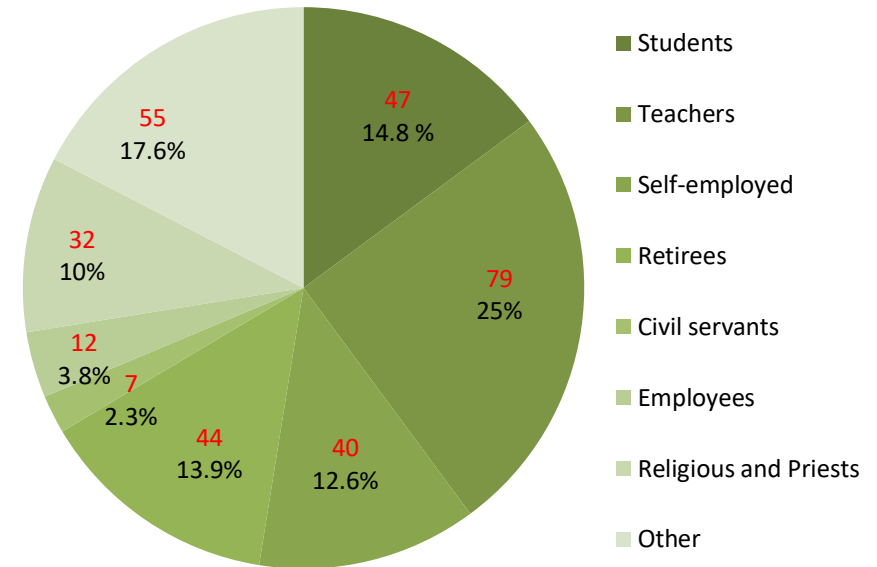
By gender



By age group

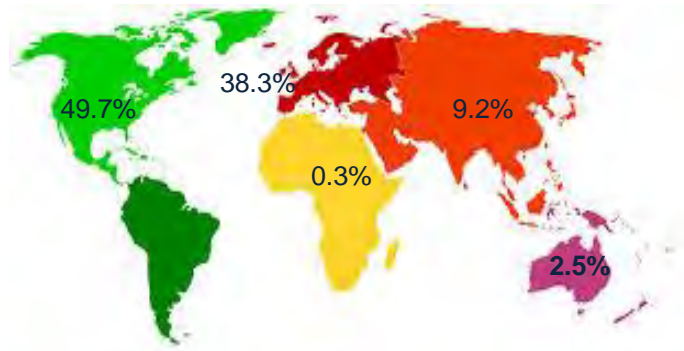


By profession



Origin of pilgrims

America	Europe	Asia	Oceania	Africa
157	121	29	8	1



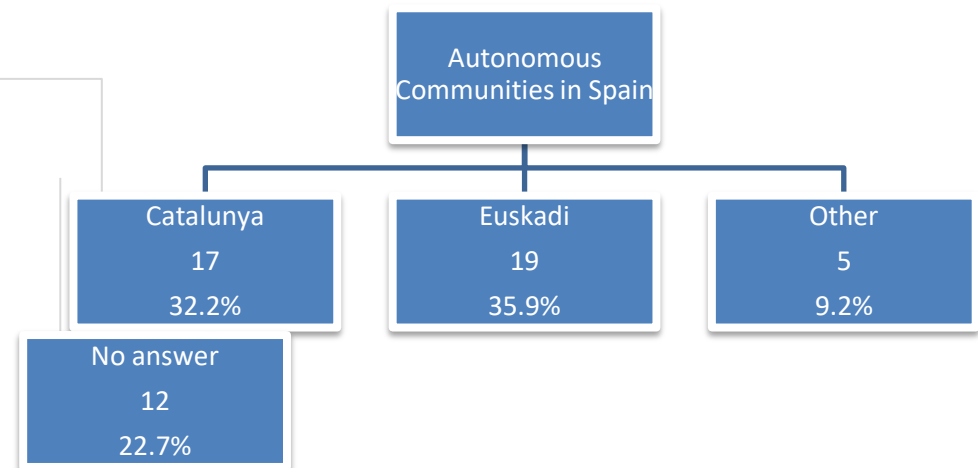
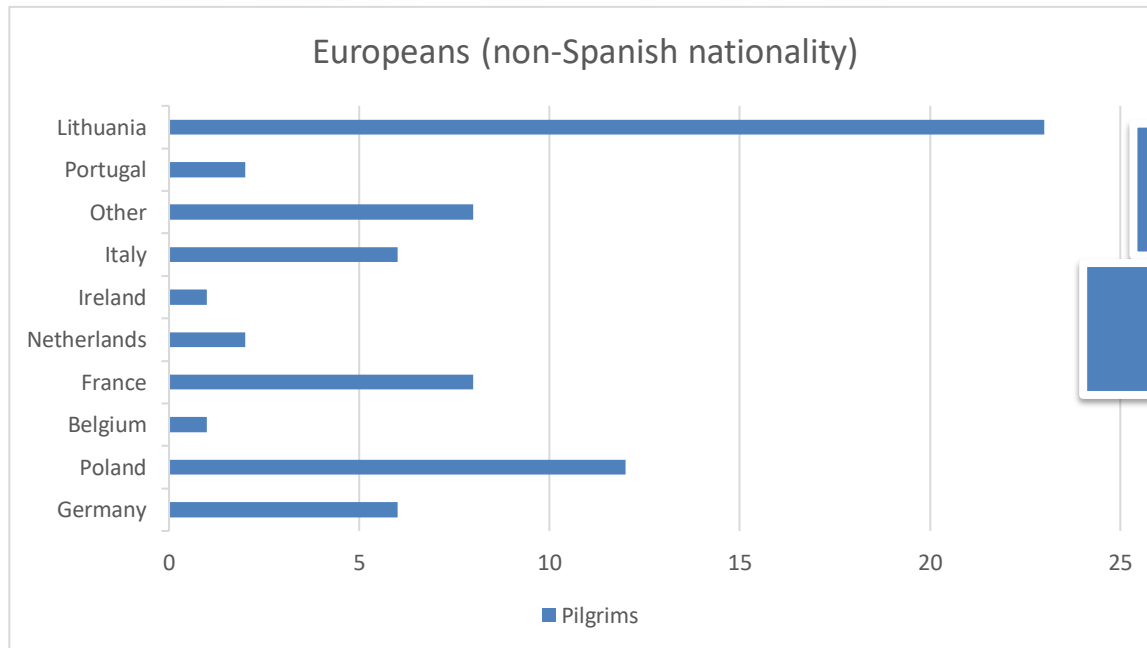
Spain

53
16.8%

Rest of the World



263
83.2%

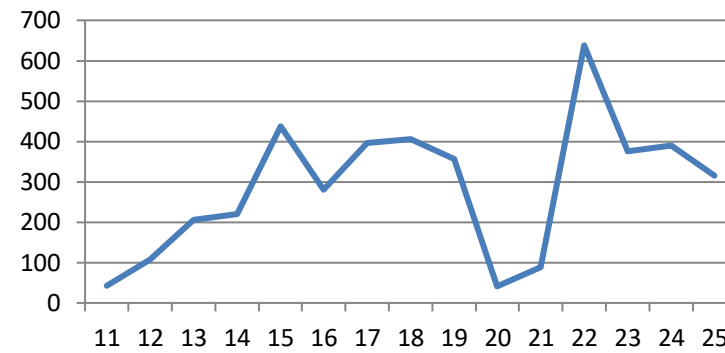


Comparison of pilgrimages

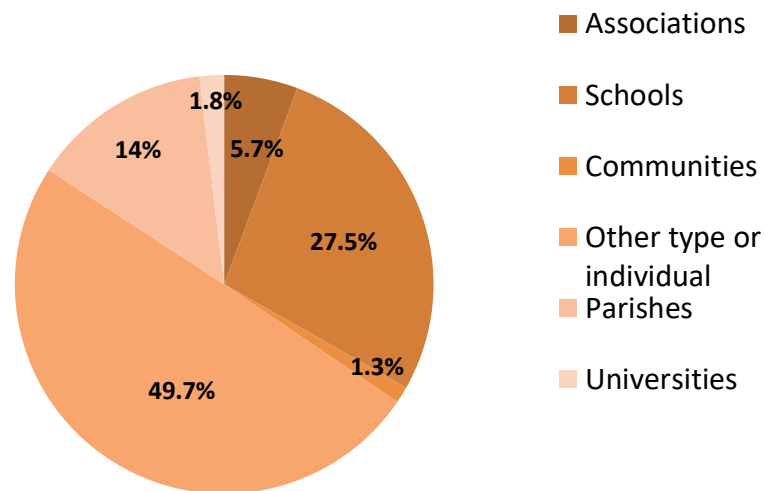
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
42	108	206	221	443	280	396	405	356	41
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025					
89	638	375	390	316					

Total accumulated in our office: 4.306

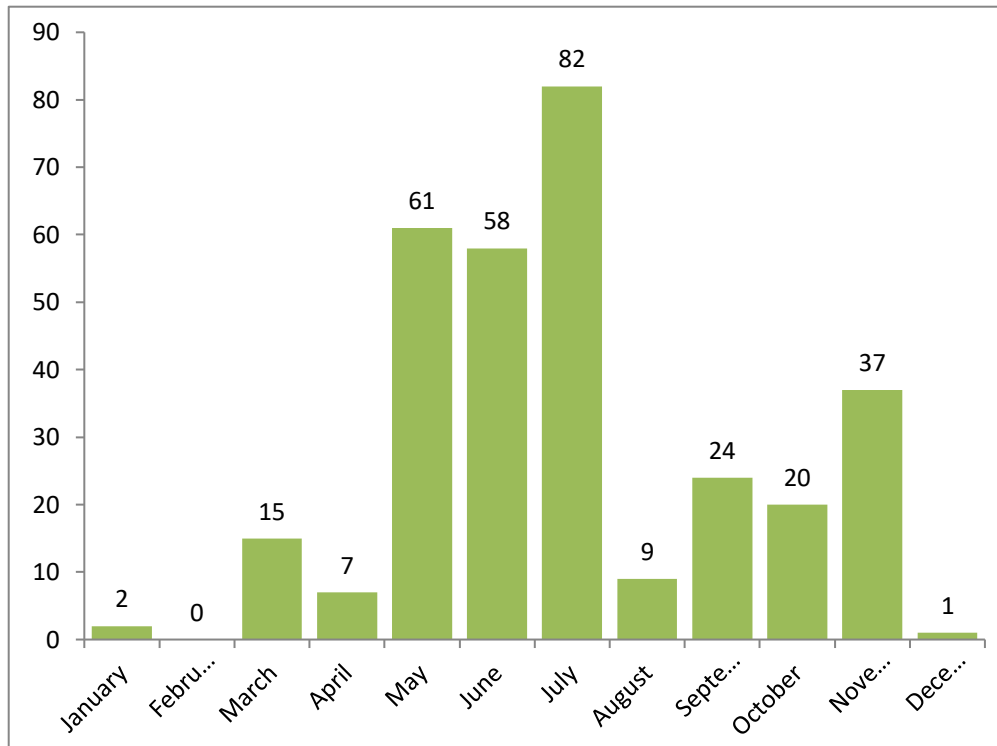
Evolution of pilgrimages by year



In 2025 the institution that presents the Pilgrim

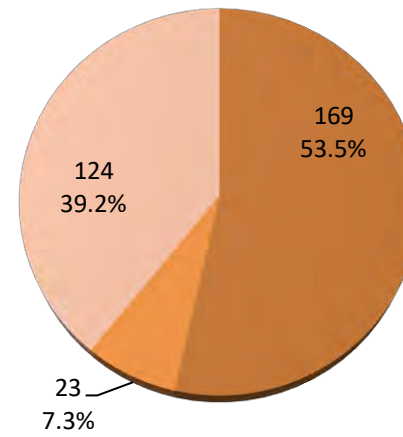


Final month of the pilgrimage



Way of making the pilgrimage

■ on foot ■ by bicycle ■ other means



Reason for the pilgrimage

