

THE WAY OF SAINT JAMES: A EUROPEAN JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY.

4º ESO F- I.E.S. LA SERNA



PEREGRINATIO
NATURA
CULTURA
TRANSMUTATIO

he



CRAFTING CONNECTIONS: IES LA SERNA STUDENTS BRING EUROPE TOGETHER THROUGH THE "SANCTI IACOBI VIA" MOSAIC

IES La Serna — THE WAY OF SAINT JAMES: A EUROPEAN JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY. JUNIO 2026



Crafting Connections: IES La Serna Students Bring Europe Together Through the “Sancti Iacobi Via” Mosaic

At **IES La Serna**, **25 students** working with **Gremio 4** have created far more than a mosaic: they have built a shared artistic project rooted in heritage, teamwork, and European identity. Since **January 2026**, their work has formed part of the eTwinning project “*THE WAY OF SAINT JAMES: A EUROPEAN JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY AND SUSTAINABILITY*,” bringing classrooms together through culture and collaboration.

eTwinning connects schools across Europe through art, culture, and shared learning.

This mosaic shows how students can transform international exchange into a meaningful creative experience that speaks to a wider community.

Historical Foundations: Reviving Roman Techniques

Before placing a single tessera, the students explored the ancient **Roman mosaic-making tradition** in detail. They studied the tools, cutting methods, and compositional principles used by master craftsmen, and deepened that learning through *ars musiva*, the classical art of mosaic work.

That historical study gave the project depth and purpose. It also helped the group connect ancient craftsmanship with a contemporary European story told through color, geometry, and symbolism.

The Creative Process: From Blueprint to Tessellation

The project began in **January 2026** with a wooden board measuring **220 cm by 120 cm**. From that blank surface, the students built a composition that demanded patience, precision, and close teamwork.

Phase 1: A team of five students prepared the initial layout using tracing paper, *Guarro* paper, and sketching tools. They mapped the geometry of the mosaic and framed the route titles in both English and Latin.

Phase 2: The class then gave the design its international identity by representing five countries linked to the pilgrimage routes: **Romania, Germania, Francia, Italia, and España.**

Each flag was recreated with carefully placed tesserae in its national colors, turning the surface into a vivid map of shared European memory and movement.

★ Symbolism Built in Stone and Glass

Every element chosen by **Gremio 4** carries meaning and reflects the values of the **Camino de Santiago** as a modern European journey.

- **The Blue Arrows:** Originally planned in Camino yellow, the arrows were changed to **blue** to represent Europe and honor the **Council of Europe**. Their direction reflects connection, shared heritage, and the route's recognition as the first European Cultural Itinerary.
 - **The Centerpiece (Santiago Cathedral):** The arrows converge on **Santiago de Compostela**, creating a clear focal point for the pilgrimage. Its base uses red and yellow tesserae to echo the colors of the Spanish flag and strengthen the sense of place.
 - **The Twelve Stars:** The twelve yellow stars evoke the European flag and stand for **unity, solidarity, and harmony** among Europe's peoples. They give the mosaic a powerful civic and cultural dimension.
-

🎯 A Monumental Enterprise: Looking to the Future

As of **June 2026**, the mosaic remains in progress, and its scale requires care, discipline, and dedication. The team's next milestone is to complete the tiling during the **first term of the upcoming school year**.

Once finished, the mosaic will be displayed permanently in the main hall of **IES La Serna**. An explanatory video will accompany the installation, helping visitors understand how the **Camino de Santiago** becomes a journey of self-discovery, cultural heritage, and European unity.

🎵 A Musical Celebration: "Fuenlabrada's Pilgrims"

The artistic journey extended beyond visual art. To express the shared experience behind the project, the students composed and recorded an original song, **Fuenlabrada's Pilgrims**.

The piece captures the project's spirit of camaraderie, growth, and connection. It is now shared with the school community online as another expression of the students' creativity and collective voice.

What began as a classroom project has become a public expression of learning, identity, and collaboration. Through the mosaic and the song, the students of **Gremio 4** have shown how art can connect history with the present and local work with a European vision. Their achievement reflects the creativity of **25 students** who have learned to build together, think together, and create for others.

The finished exhibition will stand as a lasting reminder of that shared effort, inviting visitors to appreciate both the artistic process and the values behind it. In that sense, the project is not only a celebration of the Camino de Santiago, but also a tribute to the school community that brought it to life.