



“SymfoS for Youth Care” (SFYC) develops an innovative counselling method based on the approach of Symbol Work. The implementation of this method in the youth welfare system could significantly improve the integration chances of disadvantaged young people (NEETS) in Europe. Due to lack of integration in many areas of life, these young people are increasingly excluded from social participation. Therefore, the consortium under the leadership of Sozialwerk Düren in Germany, consisting of partners Hafelekar in Austria, the University of Gloucestershire in the UK, Colegio Oficial de Ciencias Políticas y Sociología de Andalucía and Asociación

Caminos in Spain and the Instituto Politecnico Do Porto and Associação A3S in Portugal are working on the adaptation of SymfoS Tools for their sustainable implementation in Youth Care.

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## Project Meeting in Düren

Representatives of all project partners met on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January in the German town of Düren to discuss the progress of SymfoS for Youth Care. After checking up on the progress of the past few months since the first meeting in Cheltenham in October of last year, upcoming activities were discussed and the necessary decisions were made to ensure smooth progress over the coming months in accordance with the project plan.



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## Transnational Training in Nideggen

Only 15 km away from Düren, in the small peaceful town of Nideggen, more than 20 people from Germany, Austria, the UK, Spain and Portugal came together to get to know the SymfoS methodology during an intense 5-day training course. In midst the idyllic snow, they got to firsthand experience the method and discuss applications of symbol work in the field of youth work.

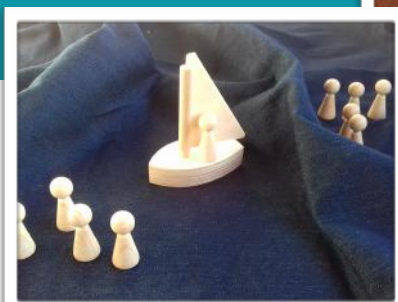
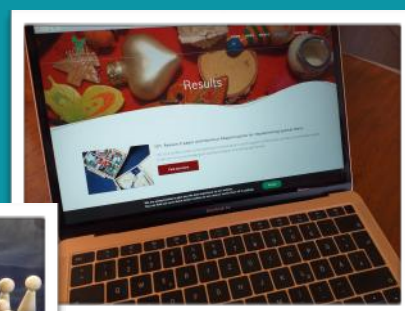
For 3 days, the prospective SymfoS workers were able to meet Wilfried Schneider, the original developer of much of the methodology at the heart of the SymfoS method. After they reflect on their experiences and continue with training exercises over the next few months, these enthusiastic people will soon be holding trainings in their countries to help youth workers across Europe get a new tool in the form of the SymfoS for Youth Care methodology.



## Project moves into next phase

With the conclusion of the focus group interviews, the results are now in. Dozens of people working in youth care were consulted in the last few months to gather their professional input and their expertise to help adapt the SymfoS methodology to the requirements of youth care and to the needs of the young people.

Over the coming weeks, our partners at the University of Gloucestershire will be working hard to evaluate the data and deliver the first intellectual output of our project – a comprehensive report that will allow us to develop a high-quality adaptation of symbol work that will help young people and those working in youth care alike!



[www.symfos-youth.eu](http://www.symfos-youth.eu)