

## *360° EXPLORING COMMUNITY*

**The participants of the International Youth Initiative Program (YIP) in Ytterjärna, Sweden, are preparing the arrival of 500 people to a weeklong Youth Conference in July, with the theme of 'Exploring Community'. They do it as a final initiative to finish their year-long course in social entrepreneurship.**

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What does community really mean? Is there a vision we all share? Does global community exist? What happens when millions of people are on the move due to Climate Change? And what can we do in our local communities? These are some of the questions that the conference organizers want to explore with the conference participants. Different societal themes involving community will be addressed through lectures, workshops and discussion groups. A variety of side-activities make it possible for every participant to find his or her interest. On top of that, free space will be provided for participants to voice their own interests.

A challenge for the YIP-students themselves is the question of how to involve the local community. Ytterjärna is a prototype of what a future community could look like, especially when it comes to agriculture and education. Thus, they want to use all the resources possible, so as to inspire participants through looking at actual initiatives. Another big effort will be put in keeping the conference as environmentally friendly as possible. Participants are challenged to travel to Sweden as green (and creative) as possible, and on the conference itself a solar booth will provide some of the participants' electrical needs.

The goal of the conference is to bring awareness to the fact that community and community-living is in need of exploration, and more importantly, the organizers hope to inspire community explorers to take initiative in their own towns and villages worldwide. This idea will be supported by an actual initiative day during the conference itself, on which the 500 participants will take a joint effort in one of Järna's neighboring communities.

With the help of international change-makers and local experts, 360° is bound to become an inspiring summer conference, while bringing up questions that will be vital in the coming decades.

*360° - Exploring Community will take place on the Rudolf Steiner Seminar from the 11th until the 17th of July. For more information, or to sign up for the conference, please visit [www.360theconference.se](http://www.360theconference.se). For more information about the International Youth Initiative Program, go to [www.YIP.se](http://www.YIP.se)*