



# August 2022 Federations Focus

International Naturist Federation Newsletter



## Naturism in Luxembourg

Between ideas of freedom and fights against prejudice



An idyllic spot in a forest near Luxembourg City. The exact location is known only to members, or possibly to dog owners whose four-legged friends like to retreat into the twilight of the trees. The path leads from the road through the bushes to a greenish gate that can only be opened with the help of a code. Behind it is a small "oasis of peace", as Armand Ceolin describes it. For many years the 65-year-old has preferred to spend his leisure time in the four-hectare clearing, because only here he really can be himself. Naturism is the name of the movement that inspires a few hundred families in Luxembourg.

The philosophy behind this rather esoteric-sounding name revolves around living in harmony with nature, oneself, and the people around. Small detail: being naked.

However, anyone who immediately thinks of free love or naked meetings à la "Commune I" will quickly be taught otherwise by Armand Ceolin: Naturism does not mean nudism. A nudist likes to live without any clothing. We do that, too, but always with the focus on our philosophy of being close to nature." As secretary of "Sports et Loisirs Naturistes Luxembourg a.s.b.l. (SLNL) the retiree draws a clear line between his lifestyle and other forms of being naked. "I like the term FKK, i.e. free body culture, quite a lot, but this term often is being used the wrong way by the erotic industry for swinger clubs. We want to distance ourselves from that very clearly," explains Ceolin.

### SEX IS FORBIDDEN

Public living up of the sexuality is in no way connected to a naturist way of life – on the contrary: "On the grounds of naturist associations it is strictly forbidden by regulations. Sexual acts are an absolute taboo and lead to immediate exclusion from the community." In addition, one never would see a naturist walking nude through the "Groussgaass", true naturists are not exhibitionists at all. Prejudices that SLNL would like

to combat. It rather is a leisure movement, which has started at the end of the 19th century and now encourages people all over the world to drop their clothes. Of course, within a regulated framework, because anyone who wants to officially call him/herself a naturist needs a licence from the International Naturist Federation (INF-FNI).

In Luxembourg, two associations are dedicated to the topic: besides of SLNL there is also the "Naturisme De Poufank a.s.b.l.", which has its grounds near Schoenfels. 154 Families, couples and individual persons are affiliated to the SLNL. The association regularly organises meetings and activities on its premises or meets to relay in the afore mentioned spot in the forest. "I think that what we all have in common is that feeling of well-being when you take off your clothes and disregard some taboos.", says Ceolin, looking out through the window of the clubhouse onto the lawn.

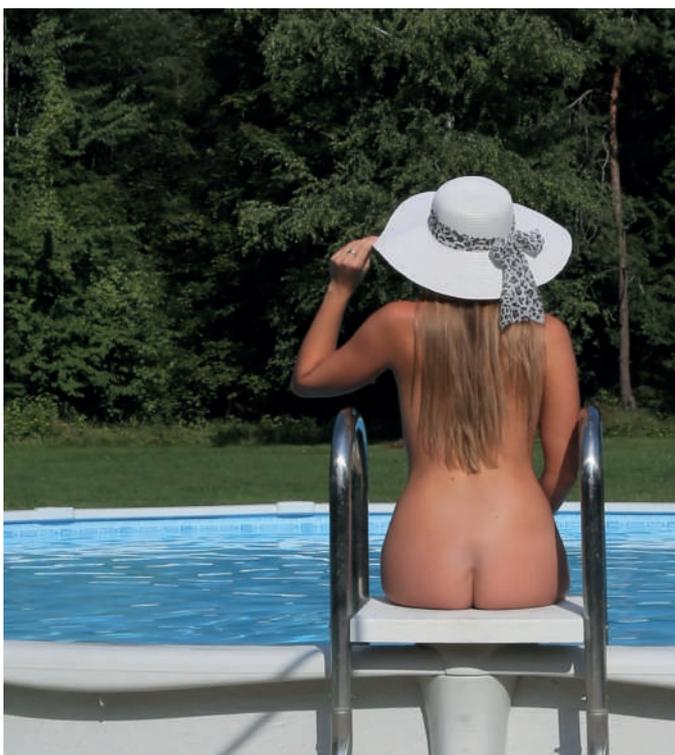
### FAMILY-MINDED AND CLOSE TO NATURE

Volleyball court, pétanque facility, swimming pool, barbecue area, slide for the little ones – everyone should be able to relax here. To enable peaceful coexistence among the naturists, there is a code of conduct. "Swimsuits, swimming trunks are not allowed here, there are plenty of other public places for that.

Otherwise, the normal use of "common sense" simply applies," says Ceolin. Especially the fact that among naturist everyone is being accepted, pleases the SLNL secretary very much. It is not about ideals of beauty or the sight of nude body, but about the connection with nature, which is supposed to be intensified by being naked. Clothing is being felt by naturists as a kind of disturbing factor that interrupts this connection. An idea that also finds resonance on an international level. Events are regularly organised through the International Naturist Federation, which members from Luxembourg also like to participate at. Be it the swim-gala in Paris, family meeting in Spain, beach holidays in Germany or

a World Congress in New Zealand – who really lives out the free body feeling will find a community everywhere. Ceolin would like to see a breath of fresh air for the future of SLNL: “We now have a new committee member, being less than 30 years old. We have high hopes for this person.”

To be able to continue leading the association, we hope that the younger generation will show more interest. “As club we are satisfied, as we reached all what we never dared to dream of. But we also start getting tired”, says the 65-year-old. Because despite of the balanced inner life – thanks to the direct sunlight and the fresh breeze on the bare skin – even Luxembourgish naturists get older at some point and look forward to the next generation taking over the helm on the hidden forest meadow.



## THREE QUESTIONS TO THE SLNL SECRETARY ARMAND CEOLIN

### How did naturism start?

The idea originally came from doctors who were looking for a closer connection to nature again during their treatments. That way, for example, light baths and heliotherapy were created. In our country there was a priest, Abbé Neuens, who opened a naturist centre in Weilerbach. But this was rather medically oriented. Naturism flourished in Europe, especially in Germany. In 1894 the first association was founded in Essen, which still exists today.

### Where can you practice naturism in Luxembourg?

Of course, on our site and on the site of the other club. Then we have a naturist area at the reservoir, and nude bathers are also tolerated in Remerschen. There are also two campsites for naturists: first, the “Fuussekaul” in Heiderscheid with about 100 pitches and, second, “Bleesbréck”, which also has a separated zone with 25 pitches for the naturists.

### And what about the youth?

For that we have a nice recent experience. In May we had been invited by the “Villa Vauban” to participate at a nude guided tour for the exhibition “Plaque? Nudity around the year 1900”. In total we were 38 persons. What had astonished me was the fact that all our young members had registered themselves. We rarely see most of them on our grounds, but there seems to be quite a lot of interest in such activities also among young people.

Text: Laura Tomassini

# LE BETULLE Villaggio Naturista

Near the Alps, at 25 km from the center of Turin, 20 minutes from the airport Caselle. Caravans, plots for Recreation Vehicles and tents, completely equipped bungalows, caravans with chalet. Pool, solarium, jacuzzi and sauna. Clubhouse restaurant, petanque, mini-tennis, table tennis, Volleyball. Mountain bike circuits and trails in Park Mandria

**Sights:** Venaria Royal Palace and Park, St. Michele Abbey, Rivoli Castle, Mole Antonelliana, Egyptian Museum, Piazza S. Cario, Basilica of Superga.

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# Naturists talk

Portraits of naturists from all over the world.



## Armand Ceolin

He attributes his prejudiced indisposition to his parents' lifestyle. Already as a small boy, he had to go to the holy mass every day before school, especially his father was strictly devoted to the church.

„My parents were exactly the contrary to how I live today. It was very terrible“

*He is a pensioner, grandfather of three, and likes to be naked. At the of age 65 Armand Ceolin looks back on a life that is quite unusual by Luxembourg standards, for the former accountant is a naturist.*

Grown up as the son of strict religious parents, Ceolin discovered a way of life thanks to his wife that changed many things for him. Due to his invalidity, expressed by a severe limp, Ceolin felt uncomfortable in "textile life" for a long time. On the beach he felt the stares of other bathers, at the supermarket's cash registers parents, ashamed, pulled their children away when they wanted to ask him about his disability. It was totally different when he encountered naturism for the first time during a family holiday with his parents-in-law in the south of France.

The invitation to the naturist beach brought the accountant some unease – how should he best pose to cover his private parts? However, it was mainly in defiance of his conservative education that he accepted the invitation.

After only five minutes the initial shame disappeared and was replaced by a deeply felt sense of freedom. Ceolin recalls that nobody paid any attention to his disability, and he immediately felt being accepted.

Born in Petingen, he was immediately hooked on naturism, and shortly after the foundation of "Sports et Loisirs Naturistes Luxembourg a.s.b.l." he already was a member – at those days still the "Les naturistes luxembourgeois" – and in 1992 he became the secretary. Since that time the 65-year-old has taken care of the maintenance of the grounds, welcomed new members and communicated the association's concerns to the outside world. Also on an international level Ceolin has dedicated himself to the naturist movement and is the cash checker of the International Naturist Federation (INF-FNI).

During his professional career the former accountant worked for an American and a Swedish company. His philosophy of life never posed a problem here. "The Scandinavian people are much more open-minded about this than we are and in general I never went around in the company shouting that I was a naturist", says Ceolin. Though, in discussions he had always firmly defended his position.

In his private life the 65-year-old also lives completely in accordance with naturism. Holidays are exclusively spent on naturist campsites, and the small family of his 35-year-old daughter has also acquired a taste for being naked. "They are not into the movement as much as my wife and I are, but they again and again show up on our site", says Ceolin with pleasure.

Text: Laura Tomassini

# Do you know Randonue?



An activity loved by the followers of naturism, Randonue makes it possible to find itself in contact with nature and to profit from all its benefits. However, it is necessary to know how to choose your itinerary of Randonue and to take some precautions before leaving to the adventure.

The Randonue is a very popular activity among the followers of naturism. Word coming from the contraction between „randonnée“ and „nue“, meaning “hike” and “naked”. It simply consists of walking in the open air, on marked out paths and stripped of any clothing. It is practiced by all those who like sporty vacations or who appreciate the close contact with the nature. Bonus: it's an activity that can be done solo as well as in a group or family.

## HOW TO FIND A GOOD ITINERARY?

To find a good itinerary, it is possible to get information on the internet before your departure to know the starting and ending points of the hike and the probable difficulties you might encounter. However, the most popular marked trails are also used by people with clothes on.

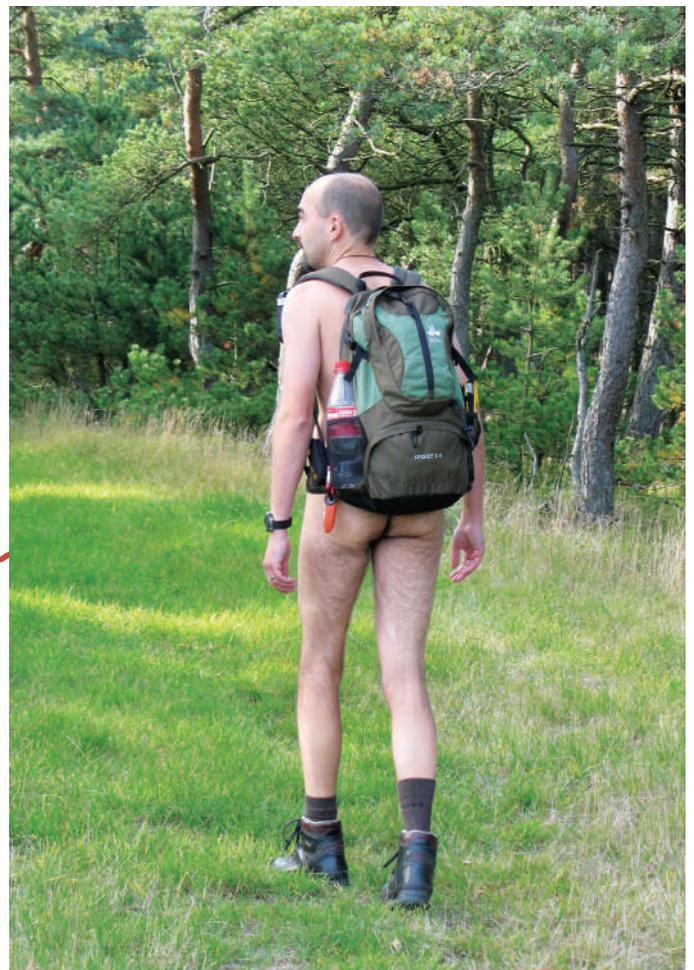
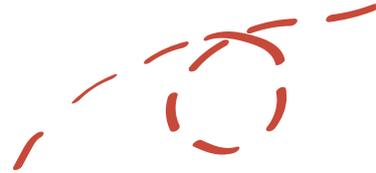
If you want to practice hiking without having to worry about running into other people, it is advisable to visit one of the centers of the Fédération Française des espaces naturistes (FEN) for the best options. Campsites like Origan Village in Provence, or Petit Arlane in the Verdon, promise you an unforgettable experience if you enjoy this activity.

## PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE WHEN GOING HIKING

In France, there are very few marked out paths reserved entirely for the naturists. For the FEN, only centers like Origan or Petit Arlane are close to it. When one leaves for a hike, it is thus necessary to be conscious that one can cross people dressed. In the vast majority of cases, encounters go smoothly, but it is still prudent to bring a piece of clothing that you can put on very quickly. A loincloth is often a good option. It is also advisable to leave with several people, to avoid the mistrust that nudity can sometimes cause.

For the equipment, it is important to choose a backpack and shoes that are very comfortable. It is not often noticed, but walking backpacks can sometimes be very irritating on bare skin. The rest of the equipment is classic: hat, sunglasses, sunscreen.

Quelle: [www.naturisme.fr](http://www.naturisme.fr)



# Naturism in France or Abroad?



Naturism is a widespread practice in France, but it is lived in places especially designed for this art of living. The infrastructures are thus of very good quality there. But you could also live your naturist passion elsewhere in Europe and abroad. Spain and Germany are for example two naturist destinations of choice but not only.

## QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURES IN FRANCE

If you seek a naturist camp-site which answers all your needs and enables you to get closer to the nature, France is one of the destinations of choice.

The Hexagon counts enough naturist villages distributed in the four corners of the territory, at the seaside as well as in the full countryside. The FEN alone counts 30 campsites.

The country also proposes naturist beaches entirely reserved for the amateurs of this art of living. It is thus possible to feel completely at ease there, provided that the delimitations of the naturist spaces are well respected.

## NATURISM IN SPAIN AND GERMANY

In Spain, to be naturist is rather common and it is not rare to cross naked and dressed people on the same beach. In the country, nudity in general is legal and rather well tolerated, except in certain very touristic cities like Barcelona or Las Palmas.

Officially, there are no naturist beaches in Spain, so you won't find any signs marking the boundaries.

In Germany, nudity is far from being taboo and is even quite anchored in the culture. For example, it is very common to cross naked people in a sauna or a hammam, where it is rather the bathing suits which make figure of exception. Also, in parks nudity is tolerated in areas protected from passers-by.

## AND ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD?

Some European countries constitute naturist destinations of choice: apart from Germany or Spain, Greece, Croatia or the south of Italy are also appreciated. Elsewhere in the world, the practice of naturism is more restricted but there are nevertheless spots of choice. In Australia, the beach of Maslin Beach, in the south of Adelaide, is for example a well-known corner. In Brazil, some beaches are also authorized to nudists, although the practice is less widespread than one thinks.

Quelle: [www.naturisme.fr](http://www.naturisme.fr)

## Events

02.09. - 04.09.2022

### EuNaT Petanque Tournament

Sonnensee, Hannover, Germany

Registration forms are available in EuNat download:

<https://downloads.inf-fni.org/eunat/>

Infos: <https://www.sonnensee-hannover.de/>

Organised by: EuNat, [eu-office@inf-fni.org](mailto:eu-office@inf-fni.org)



24.09. - 02.10.2022

### South-European Family Meeting

El Portus, Spain

More info and registration on the website:

<https://naturismo.org/2022/01/portus-2022/>

Organised by: FEN, [fen@naturismo.org](mailto:fen@naturismo.org)



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SAY HELLO

## Focus October

Deadline to remit articles:  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Release of Focus latest:  
05<sup>th</sup> Oktober 2022