Past and Future of the Minett Biosphere

In this newsletter, we offer you a real journey through time.

This spring, we take you to **the future of the forests** in the south of our country and **back to the time of active mining and the blast furnaces were still smoking** at the steelworks.

In addition, you can discover **3 new IFEN training courses for teachers from primary schools and secondary schools** that we are offering before the summer holidays.

We also reveal what you can experience as a family at the **«En Dag an der Natur - Nature & More»** on May 10th in Ellergrunn.

And we are **looking for residents from the 11 municipalities** belonging to our biosphere **to participate in our regional forum on the future development of the Minett**.

Enjoy reading and see you soon in Luxembourg's only biosphere reserve...

Ar Ekipp van der Minett UNESCO Biosphere

DISCOVER OUR BIOSPHERE

Don't miss the **next workshops from the Minett Natur an Emwelt Léier Lab**, and the **Day in Nature at Ellergrunn**.

Participation in these events is **free**. You just need to **take the time to be there**.

Den Zukunftsbésch

When: Saturday, 02/05/2026, 10:00-12:00
Where: Parking Monument National des Mineurs, Kayl
Languages: LU / FR

At **«The Forest of the Future»** our expert, forester Dan Sanropé, will talk about measures to sustainably **protect and preserve tree species in the forest**.

During this **two-hour hiking tour through the Leffrächen forest**, you will learn about tree species threatened by climate change as well as **possible tree species of the future**.

Important: Sturdy shoes and appropriate clothing are required.

SIGN UP FOR FREE

En Dag an der Natur - Family Day

When: Sunday, 10/05/2026, 10:00-18:00
Where: Centre Nature et Forêt, Ellergrunn

This year, we are once again organising **«A Day in Nature - Nature & More»** in the Ellergrunn together with our partners ANF, Visit Minett and the City of Esch. **A get-together for the whole family** in the heart of nature.

Come along and **discover exciting workshops** throughout the day, interesting information stands, **guided hikes** through Ellergrunn, **a market with local producers**, food trucks and more.

TAKE A LOOK AT THE PROGRAMME

MINETT FUTURE FORUM

We are looking for a small group of residents from the 11 municipalities of our biosphere who want to **actively participate in shaping our future**.

Regionalforum Minett

When: Saturday, 06/06/2026, 08:30-12:30
Where: Wiltz, Dudelange

This forum, organised by the municipal syndicate PROSUD and the Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning, brings together elected representatives, civil society representatives and technicians from our 11 municipalities to **develop ideas for jointly establishing a multi-year work programme for the development of the Minett**.

To enrich the discussions with a citizen's perspective, PRO-SUD is **looking for residents from the Minett** who wish to participate in the event.

The morning consists of **participatory workshops** focusing on six specific topics related to regional development and spatial planning.

The **discussions during the forum will be in Luxembourgish**. For organisational reasons, simultaneous translation into other languages is not possible.

If you would like to participate in discussions about the future of the Minett, please register via the link below.

REGISTER FOR THE FORUM

IFEN TRAINING COURSES

For **teachers from primary and secondary schools**, our Minett Natur an Emwelt Léier Lab offers **several interesting training courses**.

Preparing an Awareness Lesson – But How?
Example : Bats, Goblins of the Night

For: Primary and secondary school teachers
Date 1: 12/05/2026 (14:00-16:30) & 02/07/2026 (30-30-23:00) C+C3
Date 2: 19/05/2026 (14:00-16:30) & 09/07/2026 (20-30-23:00) C4 & Secondaire
Where: CNF Ellergrunn (Esch-Lallange/Ch & Bech-Kleinmacher

Preparing an awareness lesson seems demanding to many teachers because they often think they don't have the necessary expertise. In this workshop, Laurent Braach (former official of the Nature and Forest Administration, primary school teacher) and will give you **tips and practical ideas on how to build an interactive and interesting awareness lesson** on almost any topic.

The topic of bats is used as an example. In Luxembourg, all 18 bat species are highly endangered. At the same time, these animals are important bioindicators and play a central role in our ecosystems. **Ideas and exercises will also be presented that you can then implement directly in the classroom** (e.g. microscope, ultrasound detector, building a bat house, ...).

SIGN UP FOR THIS TRAINING

The Microscopically Small
Discovering the Hidden World with FuDo

For: Primary school teachers (Cycles 3 & 4)
Date: 21/05/2026 (14:00-17:00)
Where: Centre Nature et Forêt Ellergrunn (Esch-sur-Alzette)

This training course with Laurent Braach (former official of the Nature and Forest Administration, primary school teacher) shows how inquiry-based and discovery learning (FuDo) can be used as a guiding principle **to inspire children about the world of microscopes**. The training combines **practical methods, basic scientific education and childlike curiosity** into an action-oriented learning experience.

At the centre is the question of how **pupils can be empowered to observe, research, form hypotheses and draw conclusions independently**. The teaching staff themselves try out how even inconspicuous materials – e.g. a mere cushion, a drop of water from a pond or the structure of a leaf ... can lead to wonder and independent research.

SIGN UP FOR THIS TRAINING

Geology of Luxembourg
Focus on the Minett at « Geile Botter »

For: Primary and secondary school teachers
Date 1: 02/06/2026 (14:00-18:00) | Primary teachers
Date 2: 04/06/2026 (14:00-18:00) | Secondary teachers
Where: INRA - 1, Fond-de-Gras - L-4570 Niederkorn

In this training course, Dr Jean-Frank Wagner (Prof. emeritus of Geology, University of Trier) will give you **an overview of the basics of Luxembourg's geology** and the most important rock types. **A special focus is on the Minett**, whose mining in the last century made a significant contribution to the country's prosperity.

Topics include: **How do you recognise Minett ore?** How do you recognise other rock types from the Minett and their fossils? And how has mining changed the landscape? The training consists of a **seminar followed by a visit to the Geile Botter** to apply what has been learned directly outdoors.

SIGN UP FOR THIS TRAINING

UNDERSTANDING THE SOUL OF OUR REGION

For 5 years now, we have been exploring biodiversity, geology, creativity and the history of the Minett with our hiking podcast **Minett Mash-Up** and our partner organisations **CNC**/ Centre National de la Culture Industrielle and **MUAR** / Musée van der Aarbecht!

This year, we are particularly interested in the journey of the stone. We want to **find out how the Minett ore got from the hills along the French border to the steelworks** and how iron ore became steel.

In the first episode of the current season, we get a glimpse into the **last shift of Blast Furnace B**. In the second, we learned how **the former open pit mining areas have become unique biotopes** today, and in the first episode, **we met an engineer who, even in retirement, still goes to «his Schmelz» every day**.

LISTEN TO THE PODCAST

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