

Central European Rally: Double WRC2 podium for Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crews

- › Czech duo Jan Černý/Ondřej Krajča powers Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 to WRC2 victory at the Central European Rally, twelfth round of the 2025 FIA World Rally Championship.
- › Italians Roberto Daprà/Luca Guglielmetti (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) finish both WRC2 and WRC2 Challenger classification in third position.
- › Fifth place in WRC2 Challenger classification keeps both Nikolay Gryazin and Konstantin Aleksandrov (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) in contention for the drivers' and co-drivers' title.

Passau (DEU), 19 October 2025 – With a faultless performance, Jan Černý and co-driver Ondřej Krajča from the Czech Republic won both the WRC2 and WRC2 Challenger classification at the Central European Rally, round twelve of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC). Also driving Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, Italian Roberto Daprà and Nikolay Gryazin from Bulgaria advance to second respective third position in the WRC2 Challenger overall standings.

As a tarmac event held in autumn, the Central European Rally is one of the most challenging rounds of the WRC in terms of road conditions. The only event to visit three countries – Germany, the Czech Republic and Austria – again mixed narrow, bumpy farm tracks with fast, smooth and wide country roads. The ever-changing weather, with sun, rain and fog coming and going quickly, made choosing the right tyres often a gamble. Consequently, a significant number of crews did not make it through the approximately 306 stage kilometres, at least not without mistakes or technical problems.

Until the lunch break on Saturday, Nikolay Gryazin and co-driver Konstantin Aleksandrov were basically fastest Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew. However, the Bulgarian-Kyrgyz pairing lost approximately one and a half minutes due to a puncture already early on (SS5). With three WRC2 stage wins in a row on Saturday morning, they climbed back to fourth position in WRC2. To no avail: In the afternoon, a high-speed spin resulted in a hit to one of the many hay bales (SS12). The impact caused too much damage to their car for them to continue.

After the Toksport WRT mechanics had repaired their Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, Nikolay Gryazin and Konstantin Aleksandrov restarted on Sunday. They reached the finish fifth in the WRC2 Challenger classification, which saved them valuable championship points. Nikolay Gryazin climbed to third place in the WRC2 Challenger Drivers' overall standings, Konstantin Aleksandrov now holds second position in the co-drivers' classification.

During the first two legs, Spaniards Alejandro Cachón/Borja Rozada and the French duo of Léo Rossel/Guillaume Mercieret dominated proceedings across the WRC2 field. However, in a dramatic twist of fate, both crews retired with the Saturday finish in sight. Jan Černý and co-driver Ondřej Krajča were elevated to the lead. "Sometimes, the road is very dirty, but the grip is not so bad. The next corner, there is zero grip," Jan Černý described one of the rally's special challenges.

The 35-year-old driver from the Czech Republic took the opportunity and, unlike many competitors, kept his Brynda Racing Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 on the road. Staying fully concentrated, he defended the lead until the finish, celebrating his first ever WRC2 victory together with co-driver Ondřej Krajča. This result also confirmed Jan Černý's recent decision to return to the Škoda family. "After Rally Finland, I was at rock bottom. And now I am the winner! A big thank you to my father, who has supported me all my life; to my co-driver Ondřej; to all my partners; and to Brynda Racing for a great car. I must say, the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 is the best. I hope I can do more rallies at the wheel of this great car."

Roberto Daprà/Luca Guglielmetti were among the victims of the treacherous road conditions. The Italians lost more than two and a half minutes when they had to change a tyre on their Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 mid-stage (SS5). "I cut too much in a narrow section and our car took a huge hit. Luckily, the suspension is OK," reported Roberto Daprà. Their rally continued without further incident after that, earning them third position in both the WRC2 and WRC2 Challenger classifications. Roberto Daprà is now second in the WRC2 Challenger overall standings, only four points behind the leader.

For the next round, the FIA World Rally Championship stays with tarmac stages, but switches to another continent: Rally Japan (6-9 November 2025) is the penultimate event of the 2025 season.

Number of the Rally: 4

Brynda Racing's Jan Černý/Ondřej Krajča from the Czech Republic were the fourth different Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew to win WRC2 at one of the twelve past rounds of the FIA World Rally Championship – for the fourth different team. Previous victories went to Roberto Daprà/Luca Guglielmetti from Italy (Delta Rally Team), Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (Toksport WRT) from Estonia and British-Swedish pairing Gus Greensmith/Jonas Andersson (RaceSeven).

Central European Rally (DEU/CZE/AUT), 16-19 October 2025, Result WRC2 Challenger

- 1 Jan Černý/Ondřej Krajča (CZE/CZE), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, 2:47:11.2 hours**
- 2 Filip Mareš/Radovan Bucha (CZE/CZE), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, +30.1 seconds
- 3 Roberto Daprà/Luca Guglielmetti (ITA/ITA), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +3:00.3 minutes**
- 4 Eamonn Boland/Michael "MJ" Morrissey (IRL/IRL), Ford Fiesta Rally2, +21:45.1 minutes
- 5 Nikolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov (BUL/KGZ), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +29:59.3 minutes**
- 6 Fabio Schwarz/Pascal Raabe (DEU/DEU), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, +44:28.2 minutes

Standings WRC2 Challenger/Drivers (after 12 of 14 rallies)

- 1 Roope Korhonen (FIN), Toyota, 90 points (2 points-scoring events left)
- 2 Roberto Daprà (ITA), Škoda, 86 points (1 points-scoring event left)**
- 3 Nikolay Gryazin (BUL), Škoda, 77 points (2 points-scoring events left)**
- 4 Robert Virves (EST), Škoda, 75 points (1 points-scoring event left)**
- 5 Jan Solans (ESP), Toyota, 72 points (2 points-scoring events left)
- 6 Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL), Toyota, 72 points (1 points-scoring event left)

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Škoda crews at Central European Rally

Czech pairing Jan Černý/Ondřej Krajča (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Brynda Racing) took the WRC2 lead at the end of the second leg and brought it to the finish.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Central European Rally

Some of the stages were driven in the dark, making the challenge for crews like WRC2 winners Jan Černý/Ondřej Krajča (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Brynda Racing) even more complex.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Central European Rally

WRC2 podium: Winners Jan Černý/Ondřej Krajča (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Brynda Racing, centre) with second-placed Filip Mareš/Radovan Bucha (left) and Roberto Daprà/Luca Guglielmetti (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Delta Rally Team).

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Central European Rally

With third position in the WRC2 Challenger classification Roberto Daprà and co-driver Luca Guglielmetti (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Delta Rally Team) improved their ranks in the overall standings.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Central European Rally

Nikolay Gryazin and co-driver Konstantin Aleksandrov (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT) finished fifth in the WRC2 as well as the WRC2 Challenger classification.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Central European Rally

Škoda Auto provided the event organisers with a fleet of courtesy cars. Among these was a Škoda Kodiaq, which was used as a pre-runner ("O-car") to ensure the safety of spectators along the stages.

Source: Škoda Auto

Škoda Motorsport

- › Škoda has been active in motorsport since 1901, garnering success in rallies as well as in circuit racing.
- › Highlights include winning the 1981 European Touring Car Championship (ETCC) with the Škoda 130 RS.
- › Since 2009, the Škoda Fabia celebrated numerous successes for the Czech manufacturer on rally stages worldwide.
- › Until 2014, the Škoda Fabia S2000 (2.0 naturally aspirated engine, four-wheel drive) secured 50 international titles and national rally championships. The Škoda Fabia S2000 also helped to win the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) three times each.
- › The successor model Škoda Fabia R5 (1.6 turbo engine, four-wheel drive) entered the scene in 2015. Later renamed to Škoda Fabia Rally2 and followed by the further developed Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo, the model collected nearly 2,000 victories in 68 countries until the end of the 2022 season.
- › During this period, Škoda Motorsport factory drivers Jan Kopecký (CZE), Esapekka Lappi (FIN), Pontus Tidemand (SWE) and Kalle Rovanperä (FIN) won the FIA World Rally Championship's support category WRC2/WRC2 Pro. Škoda Motorsport also took the WRC2/WRC2 Pro Manufacturers' title five times in a row from 2015 to 2019.
- › Beginning with the 2020 season, Škoda Motorsport changed its strategy to supporting private teams. The success story continued: Driving a Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo run by Toksport WRT, Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) und Emil Lindholm (FIN) became WRC2 Champions in 2021 and 2022. Mikkelsen became WRC2 Champion again in 2023 with team Toksport WRT, when the all-new Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 entered the scene. The Škoda Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT also won the WRC2 Teams' title four times in a row from 2020 to 2023. In 2024, the WRC2 title fight was not decided until the season finale. Škoda driver Oliver Solberg of team Toksport WRT finished second overall.
- › Škoda Motorsport customer teams have also won titles in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC).

Škoda Auto

- › is successfully pursuing its Next Level – Škoda Strategy 2030
- › aims to be among the three best-selling brands in Europe by 2030, with attractive offers in entry-level segments and additional electric vehicles
- › is unlocking growth potential in key markets such as India, North Africa, Vietnam and the wider ASEAN region
- › currently offers 12 passenger-car series: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Elroq, Enyaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kushaq
- › delivered more than 926,000 vehicles to customers worldwide in 2024
- › has been part of the Volkswagen Group – one of the world's most successful car manufacturers – for over 30 years
- › belongs to the Brand Group CORE, the Volkswagen Group's alliance of volume brands established to drive joint growth and boost overall efficiency
- › independently develops and produces components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions, including for other Group brands
- › operates three production plants in the Czech Republic and, largely through Group partnerships, has manufacturing capacities in China, Slovakia and India, as well as in Vietnam and Ukraine with local partners
- › employs around 40,000 people worldwide and operates in almost 100 markets