

Rally Estonia: Second WRC2 home victory for the Škoda crew of Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo

- › With their third WRC2 win of the season, the Estonians climb to second position overall in the WRC2 drivers' and co-drivers' standings.
- › Their Toksport WRT team-mates Emil Lindholm/Gabriel Morales take fourth position in WRC2 at the ninth round of the FIA World Rally Championship.
- › Five Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crews finish inside the top ten of the WRC2 category.

Tartu (EST), 19 July 2026 – Three out of three: Following their WRC2 victories at Safari Rally Kenya and Acropolis Rally Greece, Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo also won the category at Rally Estonia. Sharing a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT, the local heroes led WRC2 at their home event from the second stage onwards.

Based in the country's second biggest city, Tartu, Rally Estonia is one of the fastest gravel events in the FIA World Rally Championship. The 18 stages featured wide, flowing forest roads with multiple big jumps, as well as narrower, slower sections. Due to the condensed itinerary for this year's event, there was not the usual warm-up on Thursday. Instead, shakedown plus seven stages all were crammed into Friday.

Mikko Heikkilä and his co-driver, Kristian Temonen, were the fastest WRC2 crew to set off. The Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team TGS Worldwide topped the time sheets after the first stage. However, the Finns were overtaken by the Estonian crew of Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo just a few kilometres later. The local heroes powered their Toksport WRT-run Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 into the category lead after the second stage and never looked back.

But it wasn't a walk in the park for the only crew in the WRC2 field with a 100 per cent winning margin. After roughly 100 stage kilometres of the Friday leg, the top six crews in WRC2 were separated by a mere ten seconds. Sharing Toksport WRT's second Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, Emil Lindholm and co-driver Gabriel Morales held fifth position only 7.8 seconds back. Mikko Heikkilä/Kristian Temonen followed in sixth with Patrick Enok and co-driver Silver Simm right behind them with the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Printsport.

The Saturday leg with another roughly 150 competitive kilometres didn't change the situation significantly. Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo, defended their WRC2 lead by winning three more stages. Meanwhile, the Finnish-Brazilian duo of Emil Lindholm/Gabriel Morales, as well as Mikko Heikkilä and co-driver Kristian Temonen, each climbed one position. New in the mix were reigning WRC Junior Champions Mille Johansson and Johan Grönvall. The Swedish Škoda crew from team MS Munaretto overtook Patrick Enok and Silver Simm to take sixth position. The sixth Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 in the WRC2 top ten was

another TGS Worldwide car. Lauri Joona and co-driver Antti Linnaketo reached the day's finish eighth in WRC2.

Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo maintained their lead also during the two stages on Sunday and celebrated their third WRC2 victory of the season. „Crazy! I don't know where to start. This was definitely the most difficult rally of my career so far. We gave it our all from start to finish. This is my daughter's first WRC rally. So, there was no option for us but to win. Massive thanks to Toksport WRT for another faultless event“, Robert Virves beamed on the podium. It was the pairings second WRC2 home victory in a row.

With their third victory from as many WRC2-nominated events, Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo climbed to second position in the drivers' and co-drivers' overall standings. The victory – and 10th position overall – also earned them a prize money of 25,000 Euro from the WRC Promoter for finishing as best Estonian competitor.

Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo were the first of five Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crews to finish in the top ten of the WRC2 category at their home event. Emil Lindholm/Gabriel Morales finished fourth, followed by Mille Johansson/Johan Grönvall in fifth place. Patrick Enok/Silver Simm took sixth place, and Lauri Joona/Antti Linnaketo rounded off the strong results for the Czech brand by finishing seventh.

Mikko Heikkilä and Kristian Temonen were unlucky on Sunday morning: The Finns were forced to retire after a heavy landing following one of the big jumps broke a shock absorber. Jan Solans and his co-driver Rodrigo Sanjuán, who had come to Estonia hoping for a top position, also didn't score points. The Spaniards rolled their Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 run by team PH.Ph during the third stage.

Number of the rally: 113.3

The Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew of Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo won WRC2 with an average speed of 113.3 kph across the 18 stages. That's 1.3 kph faster than last year, making Rally Estonia the second-fastest event of the season. Rally Finland will be next, where in 2025 the WRC2 winners reached an average of 123.1 kph.

Rally Estonia (EST), 17-19 July 2026,

9th round of the FIA World Rally Championship, Result WRC2

- 1 Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (EST/EST), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, 2:39:49.6 hours**
- 2 Teemu Suninen/Janni Huzzi (FIN/FIN), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, +7.6 seconds**
- 3 Roope Korhonen/Anssi Viinikka (FIN/FIN), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, +8.8 seconds**
- 4 Emil Lindholm/Gabriel Morales (FIN/BRA), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +51.3 seconds**
- 5 Mille Johansson/Johan Grönvall (SWE/SWE), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +1:48.4 minutes**
- 6 Patrick Enok/Silver Simm (EST/EST), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +2:02.4 minutes**
- 7 Lauri Joona/Antti Linnaketo (FIN/FIN), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +2:11.5 minutes**

Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 9 of 14 events)

1 Roope Korhonen (FIN), Toyota, 79 points *(from 5 rallies)*

2 Robert Virves (EST), Škoda, 75 points *(from 3 rallies)*

3 Alejandro Cachón (ESP), 61 points *(from 5 rallies)*

Standings WRC2/Teams (after 9 of 14 events)

1 Toksport WRT, Škoda, 210 points

2 Lancia Corse HF, Lancia, 163 points

3 M-Sport Ford World Rally Team, Ford, 45 points

4 2C Junior Team, Citroën, 15 points

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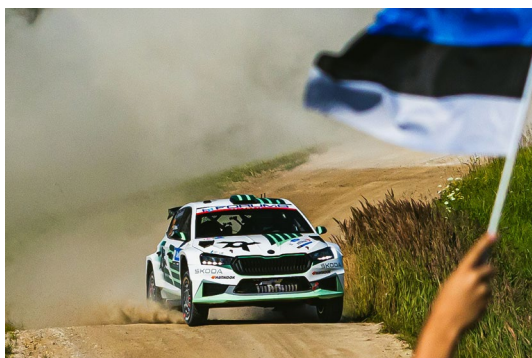


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Škoda crews on Rally Estonia

The Estonian crew of Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo (Toksport WRT Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) won the WRC2 category at their home event, delivering an impressive performance.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Estonia

After securing their third WRC2 victory of the season, Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew Robert Virves (right) and Jakko Viilo have moved up to second place in the WRC2 overall standings for drivers' and co-drivers' respectively.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Estonia

Former WRC2 champion Emil Lindholm from Finland and Brazilian co-driver Gabriel Morales (Toksport WRT Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) finished fourth in WRC2.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Estonia

Mille Johansson and Johan Grönvall of Sweden (MS Munaretto Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) secured WRC2 championship points by finishing fifth in their category.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Estonia

Another favourite of the home crowd: Patrick Enok and co-driver Silver Simm (Printsport Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) reached the finish as sixth in WRC2.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Estonia

Lauri Joona and co-driver Antti Linnaketo (TGS Worldwide Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) also finished inside the top ten of WRC2.

Source: Škoda Auto

Škoda Motorsport

- › Škoda celebrates 125 years of Motorsport since the first efforts in 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 three times in 2020, 2022 and 2023. In 2025 Toksport WRT took another WRC2 Teams' title and Nikolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov of Toksport WRT become WRC2 Challenger drivers' and co-drivers' champions respectively.
- › 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 steering through the new decade with the Next Level Škoda Strategy;
- › aims to become one of the top three best-selling brands in Europe by the end of the decade by offering its customers the best of both worlds through a range of attractive BEV, hybrid & ICE products;
- › effectively exploits the potential in important growth markets such as India, Vietnam and the ASEAN region;
- › currently offers customers 12 passenger car model ranges: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Elroq, Enyaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kushaq;
- › delivered more than 1,040,000 vehicles to customers worldwide in 2025;
- › has been part of the Volkswagen Group, one of the world's most successful car manufacturers, for more than 30 years;
- › is part of Brand Group CORE, an organisational merger of the Volkswagen Group's volume brands, with the aim of achieving joint growth and significantly increasing the overall efficiency of all five volume brands;
- › independently develops and produces components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions for other Volkswagen Group brands;
- › operates three production plants in the Czech Republic; has production capacities in Slovakia, Kazakhstan and India, mostly through group partnerships, as well as in Vietnam and Ukraine in cooperation with a local partner;
- › employs around 40,000 people worldwide and is active in almost 100 markets.