

Rally Italia Sardegna: WRC2 Champions* drive Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 to another podium finish

- › Toksport WRT's Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo from Estonia round off the 2026 FIA World Rally Championship with second position in WRC2.
- › Mexican Miguel Granados and Spanish co-driver Marc Martí win the WRC Masters Cup for the second consecutive year.
- › The WRC2 result of the final round of the season features five Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crews inside the top 10.

Alghero (ITA), 4 October 2026 – The Rally Italia Sardegna marked the final round of the 2026 FIA World Rally Championship. Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 driver Robert Virves and navigator Jakko Viilo were crowned the new WRC2 champions before the start*. Delayed by two punctures during the first leg, the Estonians eventually missed out victory by not more than 0.7 seconds.

Moving the event from its usual summer slot to the beginning of October didn't make Sardinia's gravel stages any less challenging. As usual, the rough roads of the Mediterranean island caused a high attrition rate. Crews stopping mid-stage to change tyres were a common sight. Each such emergency halt normally incurs a time loss of around one-and-a-half minutes.

One of the first teams to suffer such misfortune was the duo of Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo. The Estonians, whose Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 sported a special WRC2 Champions* livery, suffered no less than two punctures during the first leg (SS4 and SS5). The time loss of about three minutes temporarily dropped them to tenth place in the WRC2 standings. Undeterred, they achieved one more stage win. By Friday evening, they had worked their way back up to eighth position in the category.

The highest-placed Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crew at that point were their Toksport WRT teammates Emil Lindholm and Gabriel Morales, who were in fourth place in the WRC2. However, the 2022 WRC2 Champion from Finland and his Brazilian co-driver were forced to retire on Saturday morning due to an electrical issue. They restarted the following leg, eventually finishing 13th in WRC2.

During the second leg, Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo recorded the fastest WRC2 time in five out of six stages on Saturday. By evening, they were sitting in fourth place in the provisional standings. In their charge up the order, they had also overtaken Roberto Daprà and co-driver Luca Guglielmetti. Last year's WRC2 winners survived a scare, losing only minimal time: the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of the Delta Rally Team had skidded straight ahead in a surprisingly slippery corner. "It was difficult to reverse and get back on the right track. I also thought

we'd had a puncture, but luckily that wasn't the case," revealed Roberto Daprà. The Italians finished fifth in WRC2.

Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo started the final day nearly two minutes adrift the WRC2 leaders. However, their "never give up" attitude really paid off. The Toksport WRT Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 topped the time sheets on two of the three morning stages. Meanwhile, the so far first and second-placed crews lost time due to punctures. Consequently, the Estonians started into the rally-ending Power Stage second in WRC2, with the gap to the leaders reduced to 6.8 seconds.

With the final speed test only 7.1 kilometres long, the chances for another improvement were minimal. However, Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo gave absolutely everything and went fastest for one last time. Ultimately, they missed out on the WRC2 victory by just 0.7 seconds! Their record for the entire 2026 season, comprising seven starts in WRC2: four wins, two second places. Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo also became champions of the WRC2 Challenger category*.

In total, nine Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crews made it into the WRC2 top 15 of Rally Italia Sardegna. Finishing eleventh, Miguel Granados/Marc Martí won the WRC Masters Cup classification. The Mexican and his Spanish co-driver came to Alghero as second in the category reserved for drivers over the age of 50. With their fourth win of the season they defended the title they had taken last season*. Third position overall in the WRC Masters Cup goes to Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 driver Uğur Soylu from Turkey*.

Number of the rally: 11

Crews in Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 cars won the WRC2 category across 11 of the 17 stages. WRC2 Champions Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo, from team Toksport WRT, posted nine of the category's fastest times. Their teammates Emil Lindholm/Gabriel Morales, as well as Delta Rally Team's Roberto Daprà/Luca Guglielmetti, each secured one WRC2 stage victory.

Rally Italia Sardegna (ITA), 1-4 October 2026, 13th round of the FIA World Rally Championship, Result WRC2

- 1 Roope Korhonen/Anssi Viinikka (FIN/FIN), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, 3:37:07.4 hours
- 2 Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (EST/EST), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +0.7 seconds**
- 3 Gus Greensmith/Jonas Andersson (GBR/SWE), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, +51.8 seconds
- 4 Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak (POL/POL), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, +1:23.5 minutes
- 5 Roberto Daprà/Luca Guglielmetti (ITA/ITA), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +2:13.0 minutes**
- 6 Teemu Suninen/Janni Hussi (FIN/FIN), Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, +4:03.5 minutes

Final Standings WRC2/Drivers + Co-Drivers*

- 1 Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (EST/EST), Škoda, 117 points**
- 2 Roope Korhonen/Anssi Viinikka (FIN/FIN), Toyota, 94 points
- 3 Yohan Rossel/Arnaud Dunand (FRA/FRA), Lancia, 85 points

Final Standings WRC2 Challenger/Drivers + Co-Drivers*

- 1 Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (EST/EST), Škoda, 142 points**
- 2 Roope Korhonen/Anssi Viinikka (FIN/FIN), Toyota, 119 points
- 3 Léo Rossel/Guillaume Mercoiret (FRA/FRA), Lancia, 81 points

Final WRC Masters Cup*

- 1 Miguel Granados (MEX), Škoda, 129 points**
- 2 Johannes Keferböck (AUT), Toyota, 109 points
- 3 Uğur Soylu (TUR), Škoda, 92 points**

** Subject to confirmation of the results by the FIA*

Contact

Jan Hrbek

Communications Motorsport

P +420 730 867 534

jan.hrbek@skoda-auto.cz

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

Škoda Motorsport:



Facebook



YouTube



X

Media images:



Škoda crews on Rally Italia Sardegna

Estonians Robert Virves/Jakko Viilo (Toksport WRT Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) finished the final round of the 2026 FIA World Rally Championship second in WRC2.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Italia Sardegna

WRC2 winners last year, Roberto Daprà/Luca Guglielmetti (Delta Rally Team Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) achieved fifth place of the category this time around.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Italia Sardegna

Mexican Alejandro Mauro and Spanish co-driver Carla Salvat brought their Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 home in seventh position in WRC2.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews on Rally Italia Sardegna

Former WRC2 Champion Emil Lindholm from Finland and Brazilian co-driver Gabriel Morales (Toksport WRT Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) initially ran as high as second in WRC2, but were delayed by an electrical issue.

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 has 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: The Škoda Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT also won the WRC2 Teams' title five times in 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024 and

2025. In 2026 Robert Virves and Jakko Viilo became WRC2 Champions while Teemu Suninen and Antti Haapala won the FIA European Rally Championship. They are joined by numerous national champions in Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 cars.

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.