



Report by the FAI Jury of the 2026 FAI F1E EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR FREE FLIGHT SLOAP SOARING GLIDERS, JUNIORS AND SENIORS

Rupea, Romania, July 15th – 18th, 2026

Organizers:

The Organizing NAC of the Championships was the Romanian Modelling Federation (FRMD).

Contest Director: Viorel SALISTEAN (ROU)

FAI Jury: Zoran PELAGIC (SVK) Jury President, Bernhard SCHWENDEMANN (GER), Corneliu MANGALEA (ROU)

Pre-contest and contest Information:

A total of three information bulletins were published with all necessary information of the contest site, venue and dates. Bulletin no.1 together with the preliminary entry forms was published and distributed by the CIAM Secretary to all CIAM NACs via the Delegates lists, and as well posted on the FRMD webpage. The other two Bulletins were sent to the registered NACs and posted on the abovementioned webpage.

After the opening ceremony on July 15th, there was a Jury briefing combined with the Team Managers meeting, where major aspects and detailed venue of the championships were discussed. For fast information distribution before and during the contest, a WhatsApp group for the teams (including jury members and organizers) was established. This gave efficient and fast communication exchange in case of questions or clarifications.

During Contest Information:

The organizer had set up an information board at the flying field visible to all participants at the starting line. The preliminary scores were processed and in printed version posted on this board. After each flying day, the preliminary results were distributed to the TM.

Participation:

The final entry for the F1E consisted of a total 54 competitors from 10 countries – 37 individual senior competitors from 10 countries and 17 juniors from 6 countries. Detailed information of each participant and team can be observed in the final results.

Practice Flights:

Before the championships, the F1E World Cup contest – “Memorial Popa Cringu” was held in the area. The contestants had the possibility to familiarize themselves with the terrain and surrounding mountains. After the Cup, the contest site was available from July 14th up to and including July 15th of for practice flights and getting acquainted with the slopes. Before and after the contest (in the morning and afternoon), the competitors were free to practice.



Accommodation:

The Jury was housed in a nearby house, which served as well for model processing and TM briefing. It was situated approx. 20 min away from the flying field. Breakfast and dinner were provided to the Jury on a different place, in a nearby hotel around 5 min away by car. The national teams have chosen various alternatives for accommodation in the nearby hotels and cities. Camping was also possible, but the Jury didn't observe that any team had used this option.



Competition Site:

The contest was held on one of the nearby slopes, where also the world cup was held before. Due to the changeable wind direction, the organizer decided to use the alternative slope situated a bit away from the one where the World Cup was held. The size of the slope was enough to manage all starting points and give space for all teams and team members. A warm meal and water were provided to the officials and competitors who chose this option. Water was available to all participants.



Three tents were set up, one for the Jury, the other for the results processing team and one for the timekeepers - away from the flight line was used by the officials at breaks. To shelter them from the sun at the starting line, all timekeepers and officials were provided with umbrellas.



The first above-mentioned tent served in case of need as a meeting room for the Jury. Porta-toilets were missing, but due to the position of the slope, it was very hard for the organizer to manage. The Jury recommends to the organizer to use the time and find a proper solution on this issue, as the upcoming World Championships with larger participation need such sanitary facilities need to be provided.

Competitor and Model Processing:

The organizers ensured that all competitors were holders of valid FAI Sporting Licenses in advance before the championships and during registration, the Jury checked and verified the list. All model specification certificates, competitors' declaration forms and anti-doping declarations were collected during the registration of teams. One of the Jury members was present and observed the process.

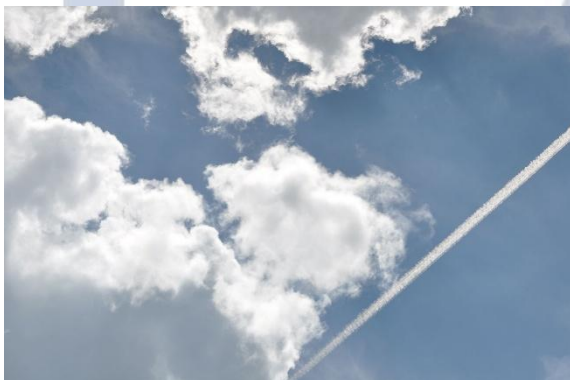


Scoring System:

The results processing team used a self-developed tool to process the results. The Jury observed that the system is sophisticated and allows fast and reliable processing of results to the preliminary scoreboard. The official scores were recorded on paper cards and signed by the TM.

Weather Conditions:

The weather conditions on the slope and surrounding area varied from cool rainy and foggy (in the night) to sunny and warm during the contest days. The wind varied from 1 to 7 m/s. For the fourth round on F1E junior contest day, due to strong wind change there was a delay as the flight line needed to be changed. Despite some different wind directions only two flight lines needed to be used. The maximum flight times defined by the contest director for the rounds were very suitable. The relatively low number of flights reaching the maximum time showed the conditions were very demanding for the flyers. The contestants coped very well with the conditions in general.





Protests:

No protests nor complaints were submitted to the Contest Director or the Jury during the championships.

Social Events:

Due to the tight time schedule, except for moments at the opening and closing ceremony, no special socializing events were made. The contestants had possibilities to use the reserve day to rest and make local sightseeing trips before the Closing ceremony and banquet, which fulfilled this role.

Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Championships:

The Opening Ceremony was held on Thursday, 15th July at the nearby castle place in Rupea. The teams and their supporters marched in the meeting area with their national flags. After brief welcoming speeches by Corneliu Mangalea, Secretary General of the Romanian Modelling Federation and other representatives involved in the organization, the championships were declared open by the president of the FAI Jury Zoran Pelagic. The FAI flag was then raised during the playing of the FAI Anthem after which the assembly dispersed. For future events, the Jury recommends the organizers extend the opening ceremony in the future and welcome each team by inviting their flagbearers to predesignated spots.



The Closing Ceremony was held on Saturday the 18th of July, one day after the final F1E Senior flights and the verification of the results by the Contest Director and Jury Members. The Jury President then announced that since the Jury had no open issues and that the event had been run according to all the applicable FAI rules, the results had been verified and published. As no protests had been received; the prize giving may proceed.

FAI medals and diplomas were then handed out to the top three individual contestants, females and teams in all classes by the various officials assisting. The first placed team also received their respective FAI perpetual trophy. The flags were raised, and the national anthems of the winners were played and time for photographs was allowed after each presentation.

After the awarding ceremony and closing speeches of officials, the FAI flag was then lowered during the playing of the FAI anthem. The championships were declared closed by the Jury President after he had received the FAI flag from the Contest Director. The following banquet at the nearby hotel had a very good quality and atmosphere, where all the contestants could gather and share their emotions and experiences from the past few days.



Conclusion:

The 2026 FAI F1E European Championships for Free Flight Slope Soaring Gliders for Seniors and Juniors were successfully managed by the Romanian Modelling Federation, with the expected standards. Several recommendations from the FAI Jury need to be noted here:

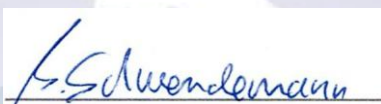
- Prior to any event, the Jury recommends the organizer and FAI staff to include the Jury President in all communiques (being it payments, medal transfers, etc.) to be able to follow the development and had in time overview of the situation (and can take action in time), also to avoid re-sending of emails.
- To the organizer to take care of more experienced timekeepers for upcoming events, as in some cases some young officials didn't properly observe the model on longer flights. Fortunately, all of them were accompanied by experienced timekeepers, so no big issues were observed.
- The established WhatsApp group for communication is a good idea, as information to the Team Managers and Officials was distributed quickly. The FAI Jury recommends to future organizer usage of this option.

On behalf of the FAI, we would like to congratulate the whole Organizing team, the Romanian Modeling Federation, their friendly Office Staff and all the Officials for a decent job making the championships happen.

The Competitors and their Team Managers as well as their Supporters acted in a smooth and fair manner with a true spirit of sportsmanship through the whole championships. It should be noted that the part each mentioned group played was significant in making this event a smooth running and enjoyable championship. The Jury concludes that with these European Championships, the Organizer made an excellent preparation towards making good organization of the 2027 World F1E Championships to be hosted at the same place.



Zoran PELAGIC (SVK)
Jury President



Bernhard SCHWENDEMANN (GER)
Jury Member



Corneliu MANGALEA (ROU)
Jury Member

FAI