

31. GHD "I Feel Slovenia" Ilirska Bistrica 2025



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The European Hill Climb Championship (EHC & HHC) and Slovenian National Championship (NC) are in full swing.

LJUBLJANA, July 1 – From a Slovenian perspective, this year's hill climb season will culminate with the 31. GHD "I Feel Slovenia" Ilirska Bistrica 2025 on the last weekend of August (August 30 and 31, 2025). It has already seen its first exciting highlights in the first six rounds of the European Hill Climb Championship and in the three races of the Slovenian National Championship so far.

The 2025 European Championship calendar comprises a total of 11 races, and our biggest autosport event will again be the penultimate race this year. As in previous years, the Championship will conclude in mid-September in Buzet in Istria, Croatia. To refresh your memory, here is a summary of this year's calendar: 1st race – Saint-Jean-du-Gard (France, April 13), 2nd Rechberg (Austria, April 27), 3rd Falperra (Portugal, May 11), 4th Fito (Spain, May 18), 5. Šternberk (Czech Republic, June 1), 6. Trento - Bondone (Italy, June 8), 7. Limanowa (Poland, July 20), 8. Osnabrücker ADAC-Bergrennen (Germany, August 3), 9. St Ursanne - Les Rangiers (Switzerland, 17 August), 10. GHD "I Feel Slovenia" Ilirska Bistrica 2025 (Slovenia, 31 August), 11. Buzetski dani (Croatia, 21 September).

O' Play and Christian Merli are the main favorites for both titles

The first race of the season in France was won by local driver Kevin Petit ahead of Christian Merli (Italy) and Joseba Iraola Lanzagorta (Spain, all cat. II). In category I, Frenchman Nicolas Werver also celebrated victory. Kevin Petit repeated the performance 14 days later in Rechberg, where Merli and Iraola Lanzagorta joined him on the podium again. This time, Swiss driver Reto Meisel won in category I. For the first time this season, Slovenians also competed in the Category I. Three of them earned points: Milan Bubnič was the best (15th place), while Matevž Čuden (20th) and Anže Dovjak (22nd) also performed well.

In the third race of the season in Portugal, Merli, who has dominated hill climb racing in recent years, won for the first time this season. He won ahead of Frenchmen Kevin and Sebastien Petit (both in category II). Meisel won again in category I. At his home race in Spain, Iraola Lanzagorta won for the first time this season, ahead of Merli and Kevin Petit. In category I, Poland's Grzegorz Rożalski became the third winner this year.

The drivers then moved to the Czech Republic, where the Slovenians also competed again. Čuden was the best (24th), followed closely by Dovjak (25th). The overall winner was Merli, ahead of Iraola Lanzagorta and Kevin Petit. With this victory, Merli also took the lead in the overall Category II standings for the first time this season. In the last race, Merli celebrated victory at the finish line in Monte Bondone ahead of the Petit brothers. In category I, the fastest was also Italian Lucio Peruggini.

Before the long break, which will be followed by the race in Limanowa, Poland, Merli leads category II ahead of Kevin Petit (France) and Fausto Bormolini (Italy). In category I, O' Play (Italy) leads, ahead of Igor Stefanovski (North Macedonia) and Spanish driver Luis Penido Lopez. In category II, Slovenia currently has no representative. Matevž Čuden is the highest ranked Slovenian in category I (21st). Anže Dovjak (34th) and Milan Bubnič (65th) have also earned a few points so far.

Bubnič, Dovjak, Čuden, and Grudnik stand out in the 2025 Slovenian National Championship

The best Slovenian hill climb drivers also have a substantial portion of the 2025 National Championship race calendar, which comprises a total of seven events. So far this season, Bubnič, Dovjak, Čuden, and Grudnik have stood out in the first three races (Rechberg, Skradin, and Podnanos), as expected. These four drivers took the top four places in the first three races of the season. No one else came within 10 seconds of them; in the first race, the difference between them and the competition was half a minute.

At the start of the season, Bubnič won ahead of Čuden and Dovjak. In Skradin, Grudnik was the best among our drivers, ahead of Bubnič and Čuden, while in the last race, Dovjak was the fastest, ahead of Čuden and Bubnič. Grudnik had problems and finished lower in the standings, which allowed the aforementioned trio to pull away slightly in the overall standings.

The order in the overall national championship 2025 standings before the continuation is as follows: 1. Bubnič 75 points, 2. Dovjak 70 points, 3. Čuden 69, 4. Grudnik 49, etc. In Group I, Bubnič leads ahead of Grudnik, while in Group II, Čuden leads ahead of Dovjak. Until the end of the championship, there will be races in Gorjanci (July 5-6), Ilirska Bistrica (August 30-31), Buzet (September 20-21), and Cividale (October 11-12). It looks like the battle for the Slovenian national championship title will be intense until the very end.

Accreditation of media and photographers at the 31. GHD "I Feel Slovenia" Ilirska Bistrica 2025

A registration form will soon be available on the organizer's website, which media representatives and individuals can use to apply for accreditation at the 31. GHD "I Feel Slovenia" Ilirska Bistrica 2025. The organizer will accept correctly completed forms from reporters and photographers until August 15 and will confirm them as they are received.

A press conference is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, August 26, at 11 a.m. in the Tivoli Hall – Hala Tivoli (summer café).

Approved accreditations and vests (upon payment of a deposit) will be collected by reporters and photographers at the press center, which will be located in the same building in the TIB area as in previous years. It will be open on Friday, August 29, from 4 to 6 p.m., on Saturday, August 30, at 8 a.m. (closing: 1 hour after the end of practices) and on Sunday, August 31, at 7:30 a.m. (closing: 1 hour after the end of the race). A van will be available to reporters and photographers 45 minutes before each practice or race start to take them to the track.

The latest news and other info about the European and Slovenian Championships 2025, especially about the 31. GHD "I Feel Slovenia" Ilirska Bistrica 2025, will be available on the organizer's website.

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