

**PRESS RELEASE**For immediate release

**Romania emerges victorious at 2025 FAI F1D European Championship for Indoor Model Aircraft**

Slănic Prahova, Romania, 28 November 2025 – **After an intense contest held deep within the unique atmosphere of the Slănic Prahova underground salt mine, the Romanian home team triumphed at the FAI F1D European Championships for Indoor Model Aircraft.**

**Romania took the European Team Champion title** ahead of Great Britain and Lithuania, their competitors Horatiu Somesan claiming gold and Corneliu Mangalea clinching silver ahead of Great Britain’s Mark Benns who took bronze.

Warmly welcomed by their hosts, the Romanian Modelling Federation, participants representing eight nations braved the cool temperatures and calm, unpolluted atmosphere of the salt mine to showcase exceptional technical skill performing **long-duration flights with their feather-light aircraft**.

President of the FAI Aeromodelling Commission (CIAM), Antonis Papadopoulos, who attended the event, stated: “Many congratulations to all the competitors for their dedication; this was an immensely challenging event with an impressive level of expertise shown. These long duration flights may be gentle and elegant to watch, but behind the scenes there is tough preparation, extreme focus and incredible skill. Thanks to the Romanian Modelling Federation for their continued support of this fascinating and technical class.”

Results

Overall winners:

1. Horatiu SOMESAN (ROU)
2. Corneliu MANGALEA (ROU)
3. Mark BENNS (GBR)

Teams:

1. Romania
2. Great Britain
3. Lithuania

About F1D Indoor Model Aircraft

The aim of each competitor is to make long-duration flights with their handmade aircraft weighing just a few grams (minimum 1.2g airframe). This technically demanding free flight class of FAI aeromodelling requires meticulous calculation, a gentle touch and plenty of patience. This is pure free flight in one of the two lightest FAI aeromodelling classes.

Pilots build and fine-tune their aircraft with precision, modifying wing and stabiliser angles, propeller size and pitch, and rubber motor type and torque, to maintain flights of over 20 minutes in indoor environments.

Once aloft, limited intervention – “steering” – is permitted: competitors may use a long rod or helium balloon with retractable line to gently touch and redirect the model in flight.

The aircraft are so delicate that pilots must not exceed their aircraft’s top flying speed when carrying them, in case of damage.

**Editor’s note**

FAI covered the competition with updates on FAI social media channels.

* [[Competition results](https://frmd.ro/prima-zi-f1d-campionatul-european-slanic-prahova-romania)](https://frmd.ro/international-competitions-in-romania/)
* [Event organiser website](https://frmd.ro/international-competitions-in-romania/)
* [Flickr](https://www.flickr.com/photos/airsports_fai/) (images free for editorial use with credit)
* [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/airsports.fai)
* [Instagram](http://www.instagram.com/airsports.fai)
* [More about F1 - Free Flight](https://www.fai.org/page/ciam-f1-free-flight)

FAI:

* FAI Logo
* [FAI Media Corner](http://www.fai.org/media)

**About FAI**

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Airships, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Balloons, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Parachuting, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying and all other Aeronautic activities and Space records.

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