

Press Release

## Spielmann starts with a victory; Tabacchi claims his maiden WES win

### The season began at one of the most challenging tracks ever

**Fundata, Romania, Saturday 14 June** – With great expectation, the **2025 WES UCI E-MTB XC World Cup** season is finally underway. **Cheile Grădiștei Round** was set against the backdrop of the natural and sporting complex, in perfect weather conditions.

With **33 riders** from over 10 different countries, the morning kicked off with the Qualirace. On the Women's side, **Anna Spielmann** (Haibike) claimed the top spot. In the Men's, **Théo Charmes** (Teewing Factory Team) set the fastest time, narrowly beating **Andrea Garibbo** (Haibike) and **Mirko Tabacchi** (Thok Askoll), the three finishing so close, anticipating a great battle in the following official race.

As soon as the race burst into action, the **fight for the Santero Holeshoot** unfolded, with **Lukas Dennda** (Bergstrom Factory Racing) and Spielmann charging ahead to take the fastest entry through the first turn.

### First time ever in Eastern Europe

The competition was already tight from the Qualirace, and the main event promised to be anything but easy. The consistent **Austrian rider and 2024 World Cup Winner** found her groove over the eight demanding laps and held off the Reigning World Champion, **Sofia Wiedenroth** (Specialized) from Germany, to take the win.

**Giulia Bertoni** (Teewing Factory Team) **made an impressive debut**, claiming third place and securing a well-earned podium finish for her Italian team.

Newcomer **Santina Malacarne** (Bergstrom Factory Racing) from Switzerland finished in fourth, while Romania's **Karina Kubat** (CS JOYBIKE) completed the top five.

### A full of twists battle

During the opening lap, Swiss Champ **Joris Ryf** (Specialized) made an early move to **overtake Frenchman Charmes** and take the lead, with **Tabacchi** and the Pole Position Winner close behind. By the third lap, however, the **Italian took control** of the race and never dropped it, conquering his **first-ever win in the series**.

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**Italian Andrea Garibbo** mounted a comeback, climbing from fourth to finish second in just two laps time.

**Théo Charmes** completed the podium, delivering a **strong result**, marking an unforgettable debut for the Teewing Factory Team with a podium finish in both categories.

**After an early lead, Ryf had to settle for fourth following technical issues**, while **Dutchman Jeroen van Eck** (GHOST Bikes Racing Team) claimed fifth place.

## What's next?

The **Cheile Grădiștei mountain sports complex** will serve as the stage for top-tier racing again on Sunday, as the world's best riders will line up for **Race 2**.

Entry Lists, Race Live Timing and Results [HERE](#)

WES Cheile Grădiștei Round 2 (Sunday) Event Schedule and Race Maps [HERE](#)

Download the photo gallery [HERE](#) (Credits: WES / Tibi Hila)

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