

World Quality Report

France

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Summary

- There is a growing interest in AI tools as substantiated by 52% of respondents who say that AI is in place or planned for quality assurance.
- 79% of respondents in France say that companies are ready to spend more on testing tools to reduce testing cycles.
- There is a visible interest in automation with a growing demand for model-based testing and predictive analytics.

The **WQR 2018-19** presents an optimistic report for the QA and testing sector in France. The budgets are set to increase with more spending in Artificial Intelligence (AI) space. Companies will move fast to integrate cognitive QA and machine learning with their testing processes.

Further, the report also highlights the AI skills that will be important to drive digital transformation in the testing space.

The report also states that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will change the way companies manage their test data and test environment. Finally, the report highlights the challenges in the adoption of agile technologies in France.

Artificial intelligence and QA – a new testing script

AI is starting to impact the QA and test approach in France. Almost 52% of respondents from France say that AI is in place or planned for quality assurance.

This number clearly indicates a growing interest in smarter test approaches. The main drives for AI in testing are innovation and cost reduction.

But how do companies intend to implement AI in QA and test? Almost 58% of respondents want to use AI to present test-related data (planned and executed test cases, defect reports, etc.) in smart QA dashboards. This is followed by 42% of respondents who want AI to automatically create test cases that ensure the right risk coverage.

French companies now want to explore specialized areas like cognitive QA. They want to know how machines can learn faster and better and test more like humans. Thirteen percent of our respondents say that cognitive QA is an important area of research for them.

However, AI implementation for companies may be difficult. Confusion remains regarding what shape AI will take in testing and how the existing systems will be integrated with AI (42% of respondents point to this).

Add to that the demand for completely new skill sets for testing. 37% of respondents point to the need for software development engineer in test (SDET) skills and an equal number to the need for development and coding skills. This number also aligns to the global average and points to a new breed of testing talent.

Automation not in full swing

Automation and robotics are also talking points for companies as they look for ways to reduce manual testing. Companies are banking on automation to help them create model-based testing (automated test case designs) and predictive analysis (automated identification of risk areas). Fifty-five percent of our respondents vouch for this factor, which is close to the global average.

But, the primary challenge companies are facing in automation is the change in applications with every release.

Challenges in the availability of test environment and test data are a close second, with 60% of respondents identifying this factor. Surprisingly, the average in France is much higher than the global average of 48%.

The General Data Protection and Regulation (GDPR) – a slippery ground for testing

The strict regulation by the European Union on the protection of customer data means changes in the testing landscape for companies.

Fifty-six percent of respondents point out that it is a challenge to maintain test data that is not copied from production data. To solve this problem, companies are planning to manually generate test data, use anonymized test data, and even use automation tools for testing.

French companies are also trying to move their test environment to the cloud to save infrastructure costs. But, most companies are still employing traditional test environments and the transition to the cloud might take time.

For many companies, providing an appropriate testing environment to testing teams is very important. There are instances in which companies have realized errors late in the testing process, due to a lack of proper testing platforms.

Ready to spend more

The WQR 2018 points out an increasing trend in the budget allocated to QA and testing activities in France. In fact, a staggering 79% of respondents corroborated this fact.

The report further states that the driving force behind the increase in the budget is finding more defects, leading to longer test cycles. This indicates that companies are ready to fail faster, even if it means spending more on advanced tools.

But, experts say they are also wary of the high infrastructure costs and want to reduce them by spending more on the cloud and virtualization.

It is clear that companies are increasing their spend on digital transformation. They are buying new AI-related tools for QA and testing and also trying to recruit specialized talent, such as data scientists and multiskilled testers.

Thirty-seven percent of respondents in France want testers to have software, development, engineer in test (SDET) skills. Also, 26% respondents want testers to understand the implications of AI on business processes.

Agile and Scrum – huddle or hurdles?

The agile story in France is a complicated one. Although, agile has helped companies to test faster and better but now they have a challenge in scaling agile across the organization. Simply put, companies want agile and scrum technologies to move out of IT departments and be adopted by more teams.

Second, the adoption of agile is obstructing the smooth roll-out of analytics in France. The vast spread of data in agile teams makes it difficult to consolidate everything at one place and apply analytics on it.

To a certain extent, the report hints at this fact. Fifty percent of respondents in France say that the early involvement of testing teams in the inception phase or sprint planning makes it difficult to apply testing in an agile environment.

In a nutshell, the testing landscape in France is upbeat, with AI and other digital technologies visible on the horizon. Companies are bracing for digital transformation and scouting for specialized talent. But, there are still challenges in agile testing and automation. The WQR 2018 explores these challenges in more detail.



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