

World Quality Report

Nordics

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Summary

- Companies are turning to cloud-based development and test environments. Fifty-eight percent of respondents also say that they are using cloud for functional testing of mobile applications.
- ERP testing is opening up new opportunities for companies. Thirty-four percent of respondents in the region say that they employ cloud-based environments for functional testing of ERP packages.
- The demand for open source automation tools and scriptless automation is increasing.

The **WQR 2018-19** points towards a shift of guard in the testing and QA practices in the Nordics. Companies are migrating their legacy applications to new SAP and ERP platforms, which will throw open new opportunities for integration testing in the region.

Agile and DevOps have a firm grasp on testing in the region. Companies now want to scale their agile processes across the enterprise.

Digital Transformation is also a priority in the region. Testing and QA departments are now investing more in cloud-based testing to deliver test faster. Test automation is also an important aspect of testing in the Nordics, with a growing interest in open source tools.

Testing on the cloud more prominent in the Nordics

Nordic companies took some time moving to the cloud. Regulations was a reason for this, and so were many on-premises servers. However, the situation is now changing.

Companies are moving to cloud-based applications to keep pace with advanced testing technologies.

Agile is a major driving force for cloud as it makes it easier for team members to share resources. In fact, 30% respondents in the region say that they use more cloud-based development and test environments.

The need for testing mobile applications is also driving greater demand for cloud solutions in testing. These cloud solutions give testing teams the flexibility to manage functional and non-functional testing more efficiently. Fifty-eight percent of respondents in the Nordics say that they are using a cloud-based test environment for functional testing of customer-facing applications.

Turning to automation for better customer applications

Companies are spending more on automation tools to roll out customer applications faster. Fifty-three percent of respondents state that not having enough time to test is

one of the biggest challenge in mobile application testing. Automation can solve this problem by reducing the manual effort spent on redundant tasks.

Testing customer applications with real users and devices also ensures a better quality of applications. However, only 18% respondents currently employ real users and devices. Most companies depend on virtualization technologies. The right blend of simulators and real devices will help companies test their applications faster.

A proper testing approach is important for companies to successfully test mobile applications. Behavior-driven development (BDD) has become especially important, as testers can look at customer requirements from different angles and create the right user stories.

Tooling is an important aspect of testing applications in the Nordics. Compared to traditional automation tools, open source tools work better in a DevOps and agile environment. The open source tooling provides the ability to implement low-cost, end-to-end automation. This is an interesting development worth keeping an eye on.

Migration calls for more testing

Experts say that legacy system migrations will throw up new opportunities for system integrators and testing partners in the enterprise resource planning (ERP) space. Thirty-four percent of respondents say that they use cloud-based test environments for functional testing of ERP and other enterprise packages.

Testing SAP applications brings its own complexity. First, for many companies it is difficult to understand the interaction between different SAP systems. Second, there is also a lack of test automation tools for SAP testing. Testing partners should be prepared to meet these challenges.

More demand for enterprise-wide agility

Agile teams are operating well in the region. However, there is a need to organize the teams better with clearly defined responsibilities. Forty-seven percent of respondents mention that test activities are mostly performed by test professionals. This means that there is still a lot of scope for distributing testing across the entire team. This number is also considerably higher than the global average of 33%.

Scale at Agile is also a priority for companies as they look to

extend agile framework across the enterprise.

Furthermore, there are also a few challenges in implementing Agile smoothly right now. Sixty-two percent of respondents say that the inability to apply test automation at appropriate levels is one of the biggest challenges in applying agile in their organizations.

An interesting twist in the automation story

Automation is important for smooth agile implementation and quicker testing in the region. Companies want automation tools that can help them to manage test data and reduce manual testing of customer applications.

But, they point to certain challenges in automation right now. Eighty-one percent of respondents say that it is difficult to automate as applications change too much with every release. This is significantly higher than the global average of 61%.

There are several interesting trends in automation space in the Nordics. The rise of open source tools enables many Nordic enterprises to deploy end-to-end automation for their testing at lower cost. Second, scriptless automation tools are gaining traction in the region. These tools reduce the coding effort required in automation and will help in reducing the speed-to-market and drive faster automation.

Niche testing skills in demand

In the region there is a shortage of advanced testing skills. This is mostly due to the demands created by agile testing and digital transformation. Twenty-three percent of respondents say that software development engineer in test (SDET) skills are more important in an agile set-up. Testers should expand their knowledge to fit in smoothly within an agile team and contribute in the product development lifecycle.

Mobile and web application development skills are also in short supply in the region. Twenty-six percent of respondents say that they don't have the right experts for testing mobile and web applications. Testers who can blend technology with a knack for customer experience will be more successful in mobile application testing.

To sum up, testing and QA in the Nordics is moving ahead at a good pace. The region is showing inclination for automation. The market is dynamic with multiple firms offering end-to-end testing automation solutions. Companies are confident about agile teams and even want to scale agile across the enterprise.



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