Questers

INTERNAL NEWSLETTER 2014 | ISSUE I

2014

WE START THIS YEAR WITH FRESH NEW IDEAS

EVENTS

FEBRUARY

February was an exciting month to all of us celebrating both Bulgarian St. Trifon, protector of winegrowers, and the special day of St. Valentine.

On the day before Valentine's day, we were pleased to host a Wine Tasting Party at our qClub. Way over 80 of our people had the pleasure to taste a special selection of fine internationally awarded Bulgarian red wines that give you a nose rich and full of notes - „Castra Rubra" 2008, "Oak tree" by Minkov brothers and "Malbek grand vintage" by Midalidare estate.

Yasen Zahariev, one of the leading Bulgarian wine experts, shared his knowledge and led all our guests through this tasteful experience.

MARCH

In march the spring is almost here and as Questers' tradition our Relaxing Thursday on 13th of March took place on the occasion of March 8th. We celebrated the International Women Day with delicious candies, irresistible chocolate sweets and small gifts for the ladies.

PERFORMANCE

FEBRUARY

LUNCH WITH THE GEEKS

KNOWLEDGE SHARING SESSION, TOPIC: Agile Pitfalls, why Agile fails? – Part II

This month we had another session of Agile discussion around the themes: Why Agile fails? Why planning fails? Why and how we actually use Agile? How can we manage agile? An entertaining speaker from IMD team presented interesting points and about 30 people proactively discussed the theme.

LUNCH WITH THE GEEKS

KNOWLEDGE SHARING SESSION, TOPIC: ITIL

ITIL is a set of practices for IT service management (ITSM) that focuses on aligning IT services with the needs of business. Describes processes, procedures, tasks and checklists that are not organization-specific, used by an organization for establishing integration with the organization's strategy, delivering value and maintaining a minimum level of competency.

E AND TRAINING

MARCH

TECH MEET-UP

LANGUAGE EVOLUTION IN C# AND JAVA

The first part of the seminar C# for Java Developers showed to Java Developers how the C# has evolved after the Java copy/paste in 2001.

Guest Lecturer was Nayden Gochev (Team Leader @ Telerik) who has more than 10 years of IT experience including JavaSE, JavaEE, Spring, Hibernate, Struts, Eclipse, Maven, Ant, etc. He is part of Open Fest Plovdiv and since 2006 has been a professional lecturer on What to do with Java Swing/JOGL/Java2D.

The second part of the seminar was concentrated on Lambda Expressions which is probably the most discussed recent change in Java functionalities. Loved by some and hated by others, yet needed and therefore a relevant topic. Some restrictions were observed and discussed and we tried to compare it with other languages. And eventually some general models of the functional coding on Java lambdas were demonstrated and discussed. Lector of this intriguing part was our colleague Vasil Dichev (Scala Developer @ Sentiment Metrics) - developer, consultant and lecturer with more than 15 years of experience working with J2EE and recently with Spring, Hibernate and XSLT. Vasil is also keen on experiments with Aspect-oriented programming and dynamic languages like Ruby and Python.

PERFORMANCE AND TRAINING

MARCH

BEYOND THE KEYBOARD

SOFT SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM: Recruitment Training

In March as part of BEYOND THE KEYBOARD training sessions team members involved in the recruitment process will undergo an ESSENTIALS IN RECRUITMENT & SELECTION training. Recruitment and selection stage is the front door of our companies and therefore it is essential to prepare people to find the right people. That is why we have designed this training for all employees involved in interviewing and aim to develop their skills to represent both Client's company and Questers at the highest standards for the IT industry, and also teach them some essential techniques for describing the position and interviewing the candidate.

And What
ELSE

SPONSORING THE SECOND BG CAREERS FAIR IN THE UK

We were proud to be premier partner of BG Careers Fair in the UK held in London on the 8th of March and Edinburgh on the 9th.

The event took place for a second consecutive year offering information on career opportunities to Bulgarians working and studying in the UK. More than 350 Bulgarian students and professionals in the UK were able to meet Questers experts during the event and learn more about the vast range of options for professional development in their home country while spending a few hours in the welcoming atmosphere of the Bulgarian Embassy in London and King's Buildings House in Edinburgh.

PEOPLE AND WELL-BEING

SPORTS & HOBBIES

The beginning of the New Year is time for new initiatives... So, it is our pleasure to draw your attention to Questers' new initiative Sports & Hobbies that will continue all through the entire 2014. As part of it, we'll be happy to know more about you and how you like to spend your free time, what are your cool hobbies that you are willing to share with others and why not to ... practice together. We believe that this is a great chance to meet new hobby mates that have the same likings and interests like you and to make your free time even more interesting and thrilling.

As part of this initiative, Questers is organizing a hobby club Table Tennis. Everyone who is keen on this, can send us an e-mail to hobby@questersgroup.com

And following our Sports & Hobbies program we are happy to support an idea presented by one of our colleagues and Questers Table Tennis team made part in this year's IT Table tennis tournament in March.

Wish the guys good games and lots of fun!

Social benefits
UPDATES

- **SOCIALPACKAGEUPDATE**–theLifeinsurance coverage was improved as of 1st of Feb 2014. All info about Life insurance as part of your monthly social package can be found on the HR portal in the section My Company -> FAQ
- **20% DISCOUNT** from the total cost of full car insurance coverage "Kasko" up to 2 vehicles provided by "Generali". Important: the offer is valid for Questers employees as well as for family members.
- **20% DISCOUNT** from the price of real estate insurance for an insurance period of 1 year. Important: the offer is valid for Questers employees as well as for family members.
- **CAR WASH** - car wash Autospa Bulgaria (the corner between Bulgaria blvd. & Pirin Str.) offers preferential prices for our employees! They start from 8 lv for external/ internal washing to 15 lv for complex one. For more info call 0988 80 59 58. What you need to do is just show your Questers access card.
- **SPECIAL OFFER** from Central Cooperative Bank (CCB) – as of March Questers employees can benefit from special discounts offered from CCB. All special conditions of CCB and other banks are posted in details on the qPortal, Module My Company, section Questers discounts.
- **THE FAST FOOD CHAIN SUBWAY** already accepts Cheque dejeuner food vouchers as well as Cadhoc gift vouchers on their premises in Bulgaria Mall (just opposite the office).