

questers /

INTERNAL NEWSLETTER 2021
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H1
2021

You have to be odd to be
number one



introducing

In the first quarter of the year, we were happy to announce two new partnerships with **pmOne** and **NewStatesman Media Group**.



pmOne is a Munich-based company expert in data management, data visualization, data science and CPM.



NSMG is the publisher of the New Statesman - a British political and cultural magazine published in the UK since 1913, as well as more than 40 other publications such as Elite Traveller, Spears and a collection of business-focused monitor websites.

Both companies engaged Questers to support their expansion in Bulgaria and have already welcomed their first team members.

Later on, in June, we were excited to introduce two more exciting collaborations with **Vee24** and **Nurselo**.

Vee24 is a leader in intelligent, conversational, multi-experience solutions. The company delivers a combination of powerful collaboration tools to advance the customer experience, improve customer service and increase e-commerce sales.

Nurselo is a Berlin-based tech startup providing solutions for temporary employment. They engaged Questers to lay the foundation of their new software development team in Sofia.

The first joiners will have the opportunity to build up Nurselo's platform from the ground working directly with the founding team.



Read more about our partnership [here](#)



Read more about our partnership [here](#)



call for recommendations

Our Super Recruiter team has been quite busy lately working on various exciting roles. Would you like to help them?

Should you know someone awesome who also fits the description of some of the roles at www.questers.com/op, do not hesitate to recommend them at recommend@questers.com.

We offer a very tempting bonus

Use one word to describe yourself.

Adventurous

As a child, what did you want to become when you grow up?

During my childhood, I haven't imagined myself as a grown-up with a profession. I loved to explore, and I was all the time out there somewhere. I had a thing for palaeontology after the Jurassic Park movie premier came out :). But after I visited to the National Museum of History, I was a little bit disappointed and left the idea of palaeontology.

Which was your favourite subject in school?

Everything as long as it wasn't math or statistics (the irony is that now I work with statistics all the time). My most favourite subjects were geography and history!

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I enjoy trekking, camping, mountain biking, snowboarding. I am a nature lover and really like the feeling of being close to it.

If you had the opportunity to have dinner with a famous person (living or not) who would he/she be?

This is a tough cookie – I guess it would be Alexander the Great.

Share a favourite quote/ thought of yours.

"If one does not know to which port one is sailing, no wind is favourable." Seneca

step into the spotlight

In this space, we are introducing colleagues who you might have missed talking to and give you the opportunity to learn a little more about them. This time under the spotlight is

Martin Dzhurov

Senior Retail Operations Specialist





Contract testing *a valuable addition to your testing strategy*

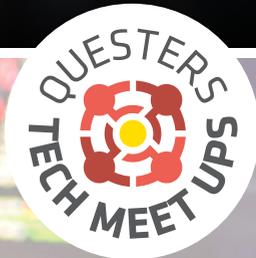
On February 25, we held our first online tech meetup of the year. We talked about contract testing with our colleague Denitsa Kulezich, a Senior Automation Engineer at team News UK.

During the event, Deni presented what contract testing is and explained its place in the agile testing pyramid. She also shared how we could benefit from it and present some of the use cases.

In June, we had yet another interesting tech talk. This time with our colleague Kristian Nikolov, a Data Architect at team News UK. He shared what is needed to transform a model living in a Jupyter Notebook into a fully-fledged and working data product.

From Notebook to Product *How to Productionize a Data Science Model in a Day*

You can watch the recording from the tech talk on our YouTube channel [here](#)

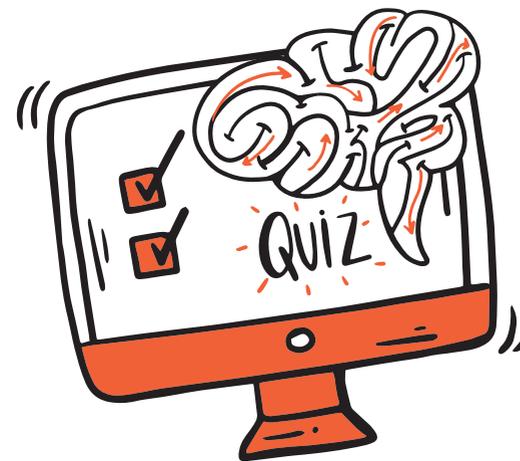


Martenitsi Bazaar in March

Usually a week before the 1st of March, we host a charity bazaar with martenitsi at the reception desk. And although we continue to work predominantly from home, 2021 wasn't an exception. Once again, the team members could buy red and white adornments hand-made by mothers from Ole Male foundation. The raised amount of 220 BGN was donated to the non-profit organisation that supports the families of children with special needs.



Online Quiz Night @ Questers



On March 11, we had an amazing Quiz night! And although it was online, we witnessed a glorious battle of knowledge while having a lot of fun. We've learned what is the currency in Laos, where the adopted daughter of the Bulgarian poetess Blaga Dimitrova was born, what does "mermer" mean and many more curious facts.

Congrats to the "Barbaronite" team who showed remarkable brainpower and deservedly won first place.



celebrating Women's Day

As much as we love being together and celebrating special occasions like International Women's day collectively, this year we had to do it in an unusual way.

On the 8th of March, all ladies were invited to watch a special edition of the "Poetite" show online. Furthermore, they received biodegradable pots with seeds and soil to grow lovely flowers at home.

Hopefully, next year we will meet and celebrate in person.

Women in Tech

@Questers

At Questers, we employ a great number of professionals who are working on various interesting projects in the fields of fintech, media, cybersecurity and others. In this edition we present you two lovely ladies who share more about their careers.

Read the entire interview with Yana [here](#)



Yana Mishkova

Software Engineer
at team Funding Circle

Tell us more about yourself, what's your educational and professional background?

I have a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the Sofia University where I worked with a large variety of programming languages. In a professional setting, I have worked with Powershell and C# before joining Funding Circle.

You joined the Funding Circle team at Questers in September 2020 without any experience in Ruby and Clojure but had some time to learn those programming

languages in the beginning. Tell us more about your first few months in the team?

I started learning Ruby a month before joining Funding Circle. After I joined, I was provided with access to learning materials to get started with Clojure. I was assigned a buddy to support my onboarding and help me look for issues. Within the first months, I started working on simpler issues, suitable to a complete beginner and complexity increased gradually.



Read the entire interview with Geri [here](#)

Gergana Dobrikova

Senior JavaScript Developer at team News UK

You are currently a Senior JavaScript Engineer at News UK team at Questers. Tell us how did you get here? What was your previous educational and professional experience?

Initially, I started as a .NET developer. But very soon I found out that I am more willing to work with the Front-End part of the projects. And then I came to the realisation it is not the technology that matters, but how you approach it. Currently, I try to be prepared for any possible task or challenge that I am presented with.

What's the most challenging part of your job?

I can surely say that currently, the biggest challenge is not being able to see the people I work with in person. We had to adapt to be way

more organized and try to communicate even more. The right amount of communication is always hard to balance, as well as the appropriate amount of daily and weekly meetings.

What excites you about your work?

The thing I like the most about my work is seeing my results. Doing everything on time and seeing people happy with my work is what drives me to continue giving my best. Of course, the process is also very important, so I try to make sure I and everybody I work with have a positive experience. I also love working with different people from all over the world. And I am grateful that my job gives me that opportunity. You can always learn something new from the people you work with.

Have something interesting to

share



The mic is yours!

If you want to be the next star in our blog or take part in our next tech talk, make sure you drop us line at marketing@questers.com. We will be happy to hear from you.

Easter celebrations

To celebrate this year's Easter, we had an online Kozunak & Eggs dyeing workshop organized by the culinary school Menu. Chef Ivelina showed us some useful baking tricks, and we had a lot of fun.

After learning some great techniques, we had a Slack contest to see who have made the best eastern Kozunak and dyed eggs. Congratulations to Gabriel Dimitrov from team News UK who have won the contest and received a cool hammock.

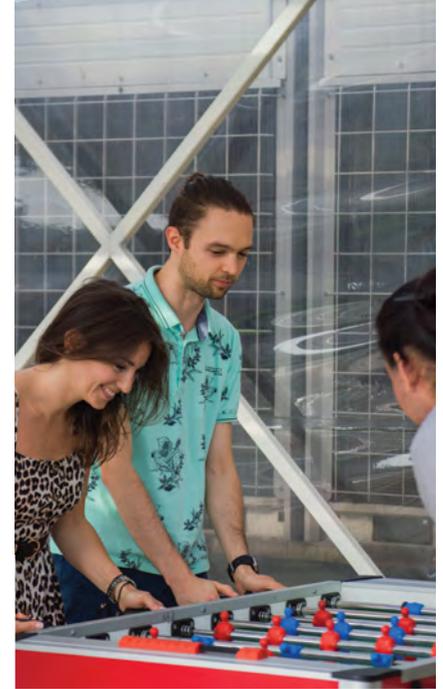


Happy Children's Day

1st of June is one of our favourite occasions, and we couldn't let it go without a proper celebration. Therefore, this year we had our traditional family photo session with KoseBosse at our qBalkon. In addition, the more adventurous colleagues had the chance to take their kids to the Funtopia centre and spend an exciting time with them.

Thirsty Thursday was back

On June 24th, after a long period of working mostly from home, we gathered for a cocktail or two at our cool qBalkon. We definitely had missed the cheerful afternoons with table football, cold beers, cocktails and laughs. Hopefully, we will be doing this more often from now on.



giving programme

7000 BGN donated

Our **Giving Programme** is an internal initiative that aims to engage team members and make a positive social impact. This spring, as part of this programme, we supported the **Telerik Academy School**. The academy is the largest free IT education initiative for children in Bulgaria. Over the years, they have established **713 school academies** in **33 towns** and cities.

Thus, more than **14 500 students** have developed their digital skills. Through our joint efforts, we were able to donate **7000 BGN**. This amount will cover the educational activities for 1 school academy during the upcoming school year (2021/2022) and support the digital education of more than **20 children in the town of Montana**.



Hosting a **cleanup** of the **Smolsko** dam

In April, our colleague Antoni and his "All Good Team" organized a cleanup campaign around the Smolsko dam. To support Toni and his good cause, we had a strong Questers presence there. Besides the good work we've done, we've also enjoyed a sunny Saturday being close to nature.