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"We make a living by what we get.

We make a life
by what we give."

INTRODUCING

In the first quarter of 2022 we were excited to introduce two new partners and to start building their development teams in Sofia. Here's a brief introduction of them and the open roles we have for their new teams:

Smart Pension

Smart Pension
Smart Pension is a rapidly growing fintech company that aims to transform the retirement industry. For their new development squad in Sofia, we are looking for passionate Front-end Engineers with React who will be joining a global, dynamic and exciting team of professionals from different backgrounds, experiences and skills.
[here](#).

Dynamic Technology Lab
DTL is a quantitative hedge fund engaged in global security trading with multiple asset classes. The company has built a world-class infrastructure and uses state-of-the-art technology to solve real-life problems in the financial markets.
The first roles for the DTL team in Sofia are Full-stack Python Developer and Junior & Mid C++ Engineers. Find out more [here](#).

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 bit about them.

This time under the spotlight is **Iveta Stancheva, Senior Recruitment & Resourcing Advisor at Questers.**

Use one word to describe yourself.
Adventurous is the word that I will use to describe myself, even though I have many on my mind right now. I am the kind of a person who is willing to take risks, try new methods and ideas and more or less explore different opportunities, whether this is related to work, hobbies or a place I'd like to visit.

As a child, what did you want to become when you grow up?
My dream as a child was to be an actress. This might sound like a cliché and probably is, because every little girl wants to be a star, but I honestly believed that this profession gives you the chance to be someone else even for a day or a month. Except for the fact that you can explore different cities around the world, meet different people, learn new languages, even acquire new skills, you can discover things you would not have the chance to, if you are not in this particular field. Acting also gives you the opportunity to experience new personalities – physically, as well as mentally and as I already said - be someone else. This is art.

Which was your favourite subject in school?
I can't say whether this was sport or languages. I've always been involved in different sport activities, even outside school, such as volleyball, basketball or dances, and I loved it. So, I'll go with the sport.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?
In my spare time, I'd like to do all kinds of outdoors activities. This might be hiking, riding a bicycle, yoga, having a coffee with a friend or just going to the cinema. I also enjoy a lot painting and learning new languages, currently Spanish.

If you had the opportunity to have dinner with a famous person (living or not) who would he/she be?
Well, I have many on my mind right now, but I will choose Leonardo DiCaprio. I admire his work as an actor and the fact that he's an influential environmentalist, who cares about the future of our planet. The way he uses the power of film and the impact he has as a celebrity to invoke changes related to securing a sustainable future for our planet is amazing. Definitely, I will be lucky to have this opportunity ☺.

Share a favourite quote/ thought of yours
"χᾰλεπὰ τὰ κᾰλά" – which means that beautiful/good things are difficult to attain or every beginning is difficult, so we should not give up no matter how difficult the situation is/looks.

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PYTHON & .NET
got older

In February, the renowned programming languages .Net and Python celebrated their 20th and 21st anniversaries, respectively, of their first official releases.

We used those occasions to invite two of our colleagues with great expertise - Veselin Dachev, Senior Full-Stack Engineer and Martin Varbanov, Machine Learning Engineer, to share their thoughts about the two technologies.

Veselin, who has been part of the TPXimpact team since the beginning of 2021, made an expert overview of the .NET evolution, its current state, as well as its advantages and drawbacks. Read his article here.

Martin, who is part of the News UK team, on the other hand, focused on some of the key advantages of Python that make it so widely used and easy to learn. You can find out more here.

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WOMEN IN TECH

Our lovely ladies shine all year round, but in March, we couldn't miss the opportunity to give them extra credits for the amazing work they are doing. Therefore, we talked to our colleague Vasilena Mincheva from team Zephr. She has been recently promoted to Product Manager and is very passionate about her work. For real – here's a snippet of our conversation with her:

What excites you about your work?
One of the most exciting things about being a Product Manager is that you are just like an architect who helps build roads and buildings. I help create digital products from the start. It allows me to explore and learn new things, as famously quoted by Martin Eriksson that "product management is the intersection between the functions of business, technology and user experience".
So, to become proficient in my role, I have to learn new technologies, domains, the

nuances of UX principles and various mental models. There's never a dull moment, and I am always on my toes looking to obtain new skills.

Sometimes I feel like a true detective trying to understand the real reasons for someone doing something, which also excites me.

I believe one of my core strengths is empathy and the product world only enforces it.

Read the whole Interview with her here.

In January, we started the year with an engaging and challenging activity. We tested our memory and learned new techniques for quick learning during a special Mnemonics workshop.

MNEMONICS WORKSHOP

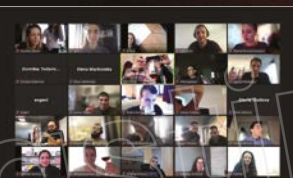# #LifeAtQuesters

night SKIING

In February, Questers' winter sports lovers had enjoyed a night ride after work in Borovets. We had a great time and hope to do this again next winter.

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Again, in February, to celebrate Valentine's Day, we organized a wine tasting event with the Bulgarian unconventional winery Trastena. Besides the rich raspberry flavours of their wines, we enjoyed the great company of Olya and Boris, who shared with us the unique story of their family and business.

Wine tasting

CHOCOLATE degustation

In March, as an expression of our admiration for the great work of the all ladies at Questers, we organized a special chocolate degustation with Benjamíssimo. The ladies had the pleasure to taste 6 exclusive chocolate flavours and learn some interesting facts about this delicious delight.
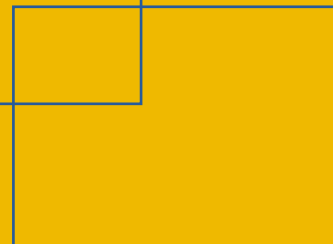
News UK team event

At the end of March, the News UK Tech team gathered for the first time in a while together with a few special guests from London. Along with the recap of the amazing achievements of the team during the last year, everybody enjoyed face-to-face talks and laughs with their colleagues.
Fingers crossed these kinds of meetings will become more frequent in the upcoming months.

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News UK team event

giving back

Traditional **MARTENITSA** Bazaar

As a long-standing tradition, a week before March 1, team members were able to buy lovely hand-made "martenitsi" from the reception. The raised amount of 195 BGN was donated to Ole Male - a non-profit organisation that supports the families of children with special needs.

Оле Мале

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In **support** of the Ukrainian refugees

On March 12, together with our friends from TimeHeroes, we turned our office into a donation station in support of the refugees from Ukraine. In just 1 day, more than 200 people came by and donated more than 700 kilograms of food, clothes, medicines, baby products and other necessities. All of these supplies were sorted and packed by 50 volunteers and successfully delivered to the Ukrainian Refugee Centre in Varna.