

# GERMANY

## *Crunch time in Germany*

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# WORLD QUALITY REPORT

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THE CLOSER  
YOU LOOK

# THE MORE YOU SEE

Since Germany started recovering from the effects of the last two years, the foot has been coming off the brake. This is a country on the move. Digitalization is underway again in the public sector, and the momentum is building behind SAP S/4HANA projects, especially in the energy and utility sectors. This is not just because business has been returning to normal, but because SAP R/3, which SAP S/4HANA replaces, is approaching its end of life.

In addition, cloud developments are taking off across several major industry sectors, both in new developments and in transitions from legacy environments. The change of pace from previous years is notable.

We're also seeing a growth in demand for classical testing skills such as equivalence class analysis and test management skills too – which is odd because, with the rise of agile, one might expect the need here to dwindle.

### **Developments in agile and sustainable quality engineering**

Agile adoption hasn't been as straightforward and productive as we might have hoped. It's very heterogeneous. Even though some form of transition of approach must have taken place, we suspect it's rather ad hoc. There doesn't seem to be a defined target state, and teams probably aren't where they want to be, especially from a quality viewpoint. Teams realize they need more test methodology skills and that they can only develop good test scenarios if they have them.

The agile mindset seems to be in place. Quality and testing are no longer distinct from development and are now more embedded in teams – especially for what we might call greenfield sites. In other cases, where developments aren't new but are transitioning from legacy systems, some companies seem to miss having a central quality engineering (QE) function and have set up virtual groups to exchange ideas and best practices within the organization. Businesses migrating to SAP S/4HANA are a case in point.

One of Germany's most important sectors is automotive, and big changes are underway here. It's not just that cars are changing – the whole industry is evolving, and that includes company structures, supplier ecosystems, and more and, by extension, all the IT infrastructure too. This, in turn, has a bearing on quality: in an industry where QE is to an extent still siloed, the approach now needs to be more holistic with cross-functional testing environments.

The momentum behind sustainable QE is making the need for a holistic approach to German automotive QE even more pressing. Manufacturers are keen to make progress, and the comprehensive nature of this challenge has prompted many of them to push their supply chains to improve sustainability credentials. It's true, though, that they still have a long way to go.

## Areas of patchy progress

It was surprising to find out that test automation is losing momentum in Germany. In previous years, we've seen progress and enthusiasm – but currently, organizations seem to be struggling to keep their test cases relevant.

This year's survey also explores the quality implications of various new and emerging technologies. While it's true to say that digital twins and the metaverse are becoming well established in some German industries, and notably in manufacturing, others such as Web 3.0 and quantum computing are not yet making a notable impact.

## Quality engineering needs to deliver – but the outlook is bright

There are challenges, of course. On the global stage, geopolitical events are making an impact on the macro-economy and, as we've seen specifically in the world of QE, difficulties in agile and test automation are causing setbacks, despite attempts at growth. It seems that Germany's quality professionals need to either tackle these challenges head-on or rethink how to organize their process landscape. Either way, it's crunch time: in Germany, quality needs to deliver over the next twelve months.

Overall, the demand for quality and test expertise in Germany is vast, so the outlook is bright.

## Survey watch: Agile Quality Maturity of German organizations

61%

of agile teams have professional quality engineers integrated

62%

of agile teams have test automation implemented

56%

of teams achieved better reliability of systems through test automation

58%

of teams achieved faster release times through test automation



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