Testing as a very interesting multi-disciplinary activity

" Testing is a discipline that shows one of the highest growths within IT", says Gualtiero Bazzana, President of the ISTQB. "In the last three years, testing services have grown by more than 12% each year and this trend is predicted even to accelerate in future. This is due to the increasing pervasiveness of software in any domain and to the dependency of businesses from it, in any domain. For this reason, we see a bright future for testing. "

"At the same time, modern software development life cycles require a shift-left and thus testing practices that are more and more integrated and anticipated. Moreover, the growth of testing efforts has to face the limitations in terms of scheduling and budgets that can be managed only through a better efficiency of the test teams (mainly thanks to well defined test strategies and good knowledge of the test techniques) and effectiveness (mainly thanks to test automation). For all the above reasons, we see for testing a very interesting multi-disciplinary activity, consisting in test management, test analysis & design and test execution activities, with a very close co-operation with the development teams and an exposure to the most advanced technologies."

Like in any other domain, testers have to be prepared for changes

"Technologies are evolving very quickly and testing needs to be adapted to them. At the same time, testing methodologies have also to be tailored to the modern SDLC's and to the risk level of the application under test. So, testers have to be open-minded, curious, flexible and ready to take new challenges!

"We consider that testers need first of all to learn the basics of test techniques, methods and processes; this is why in the ISTQB® portfolio we consider our foundation level as the cornerstone and the preconditions for any other certification. Based on that, we see three main paths for strengthening the competence and defining a learning and career path:

- Get an advanced level of know-how on cross domain core competences, notably:
  - Advanced level test manager
  - Advanced level test analyst
  - Advanced level technical test analyst
- Get a thorough understanding on how to apply testing in an agile context. In this domain, ISTQB® has already issued a foundation level syllabus (which has been very well received by the market) and will in the future provide syllabi also at advanced level
- Get a deep-dive into specialist topics, that can be considered from different perspectives, eg:
  - Domain-driven testing specializations (eg: testing in the automotive domain, that is an area with an explosive growth)
  - Activity-driven testing specializations (eg: test automation, that is an area where companies will continue to do huge investments)
  - Technology-driven testing specializations (eg: mobile testing)
  - Characteristic-driven testing specializations (eg: performance testing, security testing, usability testing)

But most of all; keep learning!" □

Gualtiero Bazzana is Manager at Alten IT and President of the International Software Testing Qualifications Board (ISTQB). Improve Quality Service is a leading ISTQB training provider since over 15 years.