



SOFTWARE TESTING ACADEMY

PR4: 2nd Pilot Report

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1. Introduction

The Second Pilot Evaluation Report for the Software Testers Academy provides an in-depth analysis of feedback collected from the 103 participants who engaged with this phase of the program. Designed to provide essential software testing skills, the Academy leverages an accessible and interactive platform combined with structured learning paths tailored to industry standards. This report consolidates participant insights into three key areas: demographics, platform evaluation, and learning path-specific feedback.

Participant Demographics

The pilot successfully attracted 103 participants from diverse professional, educational, and cultural backgrounds, demonstrating the Academy's broad appeal and inclusivity. This demographic diversity enriched the learning experience and provided valuable perspectives on the program's adaptability to different learner profiles.

Platform Evaluation

Participants evaluated the online platform and overall course design, offering feedback on its usability, interactivity, and content quality. While many praised the platform's functionality, user-friendliness, and engaging design, some suggested improvements, particularly regarding translations, content clarity, and interactive elements. These insights are critical for refining the learning experience in future iterations.

Path Evaluations

The three learning paths offered—Agile Testing, Accessibility Testing, and Automation in Testing—received detailed evaluations. Participants assessed the relevance, clarity, engagement, and alignment of each path with their learning objectives. Overall, feedback highlighted the program's practical value and well-structured content, while also identifying opportunities for enhancement, such as additional exercises, case studies, and introductory resources for beginners.

Purpose and Goals

This report underscores the importance of participant feedback in shaping the Software Testers Academy into a leading platform for accessible and effective software testing education. By addressing the strengths and areas for improvement identified in this evaluation, the program is well-positioned to continue empowering learners worldwide and meeting industry needs.

The findings and recommendations detailed in this report aim to guide strategic improvements, ensuring that the Academy remains a relevant and impactful resource for aspiring software testers.

2. Demographics

2.1. Introduction

This chapter presents a demographic profile of the 103 participants who engaged in the second pilot of the Software Testers Academy, part of an Erasmus+ project. The Academy aims to deliver free, accessible, and inclusive education in software testing to individuals who may lack resources or opportunities. This analysis examines participants' age, gender, nationality, country of residence, language preferences, educational background, prior experience in software testing, and how they discovered the program.

2.2. Age Distribution

Participants were grouped into five age categories:

- **16–20 years:** 50 respondents (48.5%)
- **21–30 years:** 38 respondents (36.9%)
- **31–40 years:** 11 respondents (10.7%)
- **41–50 years:** 2 respondents (1.9%)
- **51–60 years:** 2 respondents (1.9%)

The data reveals that the program predominantly attracted younger participants, with 85.4% aged 30 or younger, highlighting its appeal to individuals seeking entry into the field or advancing their educational and career aspirations.

2.3. Gender Distribution

The gender composition of the participants was as follows:

- **Male:** 69 participants (67%)
- **Female:** 32 participants (31.1%)
- **Prefer not to say:** 2 participants (1.9%)

Although a majority of participants were male, the presence of 32 female participants underscores the project's potential to promote gender inclusivity in software testing education.

2.4. Nationality

Participants represented 17 nationalities, reflecting the Academy's global outreach:

Nationality	Participants	Percentage
Zimbabwean	27	26.2%
Portuguese	26	25.2%
São Tomense	12	11.7%
German	12	11.7%
Spanish	4	3.9%
Polish	4	3.9%
Nigerian	4	3.9%
Ukrainian	4	3.9%
Other (single cases)	10	9.7%

The top three nationalities—Zimbabwean, Portuguese, and São Tomense—accounted for over 60% of the participants. This highlights the program’s strong appeal in regions with existing local partnerships.

2.5. Country of Residence

The countries of residence of participants further emphasize the program’s international scope:

Country	Participants	Percentage
Poland	37	35.9%
Portugal	30	29.1%
Germany	13	12.6%
Spain	7	6.8%
São Tomé e Príncipe	7	6.8%
Other (11 countries)	9	8.7%

Poland and Portugal emerged as the most represented countries, indicating the success of local partnerships and recruitment efforts in these regions.

2.6. Preferred Language

Participants were asked to identify their preferred language for engaging with the program:

- **English:** 59 participants (57.3%)
- **Portuguese:** 25 participants (24.3%)

- **German:** 11 participants (10.7%)
- **Spanish:** 5 participants (4.9%)
- **Polish:** 3 participants (2.9%)

English emerged as the dominant language preference, reflecting the international nature of the program. However, the significant proportion of Portuguese speakers underscores the importance of multilingual accessibility.

2.7. Education Level

The educational backgrounds of participants were as follows:

- **Secondary School:** 69 participants (67%)
- **Bachelor's Degree:** 14 participants (13.6%)
- **Master's Degree:** 13 participants (12.6%)

The majority of participants (67%) had completed secondary school, indicating the program's relevance for individuals at the beginning of their educational or professional journeys.

2.8. Experience in Software Testing

Most participants were new to the field:

- **No prior experience:** 96 participants (93.2%)
- **With prior experience:** 7 participants (6.8%)

This data confirms the Academy's effectiveness in attracting beginners and fulfilling its mission to introduce software testing to those without prior exposure.

2.9. Awareness of the Program

Participants learned about the program through the following channels:

- **Project partners contacted me:** 55 participants (53.4%)
- **Social media:** 27 participants (26.2%)
- **Word of mouth:** 17 participants (16.5%)

Direct outreach by project partners was the most common method of engagement, highlighting the importance of collaboration with local and regional organizations.

2.10. Summary

The demographic analysis of the second pilot demonstrates the Software Testers Academy's continued success in reaching its target audience. With 103 participants from diverse nationalities and backgrounds, the pilot maintained its focus on younger individuals with limited prior experience in software testing. The strong demand for English and Portuguese resources emphasizes the need for accessible, multilingual content. These results reaffirm the Academy's role in providing equitable and inclusive learning opportunities while expanding its international reach.

3. Evaluation of the 2nd Pilot – Platform

3.1. Introduction

This chapter evaluates the feedback from the second pilot of the Software Testers Academy. Out of 103 participants engaged in the pilot, 73 completed the evaluation questionnaire. The analysis includes quantitative ratings and qualitative insights about the platform's usability, course content, support, and overall experience. The findings highlight both strengths and areas for improvement in the program.

3.2. Quantitative Evaluation

Participants rated several aspects of the platform and courses on a scale from 1 (worst) to 5 (best). The summarized ratings are shown in the table below:

Aspect Evaluated	Rating 1	Rating 2	Rating 3	Rating 4	Rating 5
The content of the course met my learning objectives	0	1	8	20	44
The online platform was user-friendly and easy to navigate	0	1	9	22	41
The design supported effective learning	0	1	5	21	46
The level of interactivity enhanced learning	0	3	9	23	38
Technical support was readily available and helpful	0	2	7	14	50
Interaction with instructors/facilitators was effective	0	2	5	15	51
Assessment methods were fair and relevant	0	0	6	18	49

These results show that the majority of participants rated their experiences as either “good” (4) or “excellent” (5), indicating a high level of satisfaction across all aspects evaluated.

3.3. Qualitative Feedback

Key Areas for Improvement

Participants shared valuable insights on aspects of the course and platform that could be enhanced. The main themes are summarized below:

Category	Feedback Highlights
Practical Content	Add more practice exercises, reduce theoretical repetition, and include interactive tasks.
Usability	Improve platform interactivity and navigation; address translation inconsistencies, especially in Portuguese.
Course Structure	Introduce glossaries and acronym explanations earlier; provide time estimates for completion.

Specific comments included:

- "There were a lot of notes and definitions, but not enough practice exercises."
- "Some translations need to be reviewed, especially in Portuguese."
- "The glossary was helpful but placed at the end of the course—putting it earlier would improve usability."

Positive Feedback

Despite suggestions for improvement, participants also provided numerous positive remarks:

Category	Feedback Highlights
Content	"The course provided a solid foundation for my career." "The materials were well-structured and engaging."
Support	"Coaches were incredibly helpful and available." "Technical support was prompt and effective."
Overall Experience	"The platform was user-friendly and easy to navigate." "I appreciated the certificate of completion."

3.4. Overall Satisfaction

When asked about their overall satisfaction, participants expressed predominantly positive sentiments. The key responses are summarized below:

Level of Satisfaction	Sample Feedback
Highly Satisfied	"I am very satisfied with both the course and the platform." "The process was smooth and enriching."
Moderately Satisfied	"The platform was good, but there is room for improvement in interactivity and translations."
Suggestions for Improvement	"Adding more engaging elements and a simpler interface would enhance the experience."

3.5. Summary

The evaluation of the second pilot highlights significant participant satisfaction, with high ratings for course content, platform usability, and support services. The written feedback emphasized the need for more interactive content, improved translations, and structural refinements, while also acknowledging the program's effectiveness in delivering valuable and accessible learning opportunities. These findings will guide enhancements for future iterations of the Software Testers Academy.

4. Evaluation of the 2nd Pilot – Learning Paths

4.1. Introduction

The participants in the second pilot of the Software Testers Academy evaluated the specific learning paths they engaged with. This analysis is based on responses from 73 participants, many of whom assessed more than one path. The three paths evaluated were Agile Testing, Accessibility Testing, and Automation in Testing.

4.2. Evaluation Distribution by Path

The distribution of evaluations across the three paths is summarized below:

Path	Number of Participants Evaluating
Agile Testing	30
Accessibility Testing	39
Automation in Testing	31

4.3. Agile Testing Path

Quantitative Results

Participants rated the Agile Testing path on a scale from 1 (worst) to 5 (best). The table below summarizes the results:

Aspect Evaluated	1	2	3	4	5
The content was relevant to my learning objectives	0	0	1	7	22
Instructions and explanations were clear and easy	0	0	2	7	21
Materials (slides, readings, etc.) were helpful	0	1	3	7	19
Activities and discussions promoted engagement	0	2	2	6	20
Platform was user-friendly and conducive to learning	0	0	2	5	23

Qualitative Feedback

Category	Feedback Highlights
Content	"More exercises," "Provide additional resources for deeper exploration," "Reduce repetition."

Category	Feedback Highlights
Usability	"Platform needs to be more user-friendly," "Improve clarity of course content."
Suggestions	"Introduce more practical exercises," "Explain acronyms and terms earlier in the course."

Satisfaction

Most participants expressed high satisfaction with the Agile Testing path:

Sample Responses: "Muito satisfeito," "Super satisfied," "Everything fine," "8/10," "10/10."

Additional Feedback

Feedback Highlights
"It offers a well-rounded blend of theory and practical application."
"Aprendi muito, foi muito útil."

4.4. Accessibility Testing Path

Quantitative Results

Aspect Evaluated	1	2	3	4	5
The content was relevant to my learning objectives	0	0	1	7	31
Instructions and explanations were clear and easy	0	0	0	8	31
Materials (slides, readings, etc.) were helpful	0	0	0	7	32
Activities and discussions promoted engagement	0	0	1	5	33
Platform was user-friendly and conducive to learning	0	0	1	6	32

Qualitative Feedback

Category	Feedback Highlights
Content	"Very important topic, well-covered," "Aprendi bastante e é muito relevante."
Usability	"Some translations need to be revised," "Ensure all sections are available in Portuguese."

Satisfaction

High satisfaction was reported for this path:

Sample Responses: "Muito satisfeito," "10/10," "Very satisfied," "4.5/5."

Additional Feedback

Feedback Highlights
"The course is of good quality," "Helpful and engaging course."

4.5. Automation in Testing Path

Quantitative Results

Aspect Evaluated	1	2	3	4	5
The content was relevant to my learning objectives	0	1	1	10	19
Instructions and explanations were clear and easy	0	0	3	4	24
Materials (slides, readings, etc.) were helpful	0	1	1	11	18
Activities and discussions promoted engagement	0	0	3	11	17
Platform was user-friendly and conducive to learning	0	0	5	9	17

Qualitative Feedback

Category	Feedback Highlights
Content	"Introduce detailed case studies," "Include interactive videos or podcasts."
Usability	"Platform requires too many personal details," "Make navigation easier."

Satisfaction

The satisfaction with the Automation in Testing path was generally positive:

Sample Responses: "Muito satisfeito," "7/10," "Satisfied," "Overall decent."

Additional Feedback

Feedback Highlights
"An excellent journey equipping learners with necessary skills," "Helpful and well-structured course."

4.6. Summary

The path evaluations highlighted the following trends:

1. **High Satisfaction:** All paths received predominantly high ratings, particularly for their relevance and engagement.
2. **Suggestions for Improvement:** Repeated calls for more interactive and practical content, improved translations, and user-friendly platform adjustments.
3. **Valuable Learning:** Participants found the paths educational, with many appreciating the blend of theory and practice, especially for Accessibility and Automation Testing.

The feedback will be instrumental in refining the paths for future iterations.

5. Conclusion

The Second Pilot Evaluation Report reflects the significant strides made by the Software Testers Academy in delivering a comprehensive and accessible learning experience for aspiring software testers. With 103 participants engaging in this pilot phase, the program demonstrated its ability to attract a diverse, multinational audience, aligning with its mission of inclusivity and global reach.

Key Takeaways

1. Diverse Engagement

The participants represented a wide range of age groups, nationalities, and educational backgrounds, reaffirming the Academy's appeal across varied demographics. This diversity not only enriches the learning environment but also highlights the program's potential to address a global need for accessible software testing education.

2. Platform and Course Feedback

The overall satisfaction with the platform and course structure was overwhelmingly positive, with high ratings across usability, interactivity, and content relevance. Constructive feedback on translation accuracy, interactive content, and additional practical exercises provides actionable insights for further improvements.

3. Path-Specific Insights

The evaluations of the three learning paths—Agile Testing, Accessibility Testing, and Automation in Testing—were largely favorable, emphasizing the relevance and clarity of the content. Recommendations such as the inclusion of case studies, more hands-on exercises, and beginner-friendly resources will be instrumental in refining these paths for greater impact.

4. Participant Satisfaction

High satisfaction rates across all evaluation metrics underscore the program's ability to meet participants' learning objectives effectively. The positive feedback on the platform's design and course content validates the Academy's approach, while suggestions for enhancement will help ensure continuous improvement.

Looking Ahead

The findings from this report provide a clear roadmap for optimizing the Software Testers Academy. By addressing the areas for improvement identified in participant feedback, the Academy can further enhance its accessibility, interactivity, and educational value. These developments will not only solidify its position as a leading training platform but also empower learners from diverse backgrounds to excel in the software testing field.

As the Academy moves forward, the success of this second pilot serves as a testament to its potential to transform lives through accessible and innovative education. The insights gained here will guide future pilots and ensure the Academy continues to evolve in alignment with learner needs and industry standards.