

Olena Savinova

Engineering Manager | Quality & Developer Experience Leadership

Berlin, Germany • el.savinova@gmail.com • <https://www.linkedin.com/in/elena-savinova> • +49 176 67962134

Skills

Engineering leader with 15+ years of experience in software development, quality engineering and leadership. Proven track record in leading multi-national, distributed teams in fast-paced environments. Adept at driving engineering excellence, setting strategic direction and fostering inclusive and high-performing team cultures. Known for balancing technical quality and accelerating product delivery through automation, tooling and cross-team collaboration

Core Competencies

Engineering Leadership, Team management, Cross-functional collaboration, Quality strategy, Test automation, Developer experience, Hiring, Mentorship, Career Development, Goal setting, Performance Management, Static analysis, Release management, C#, Mercurial, Git, Fogbugz, JIRA, TestRail, NUnit, WebDriver, Playwright, Docker, Dev containers, Deepsource, Test automation frameworks, Github actions, Grafana, Python (basic), Ruby (basic), AppScript (basic), Tableau

Experience

Babbel | Head of QA

September 2022 - Present, Berlin

- Led Quality engineering department (4 direct reports, 25 total) across multiple product teams, setting vision and strategy for quality
- **Reduced mobile release cycle time by ~20%** by implementing a risk-based testing approach
- Standardised the bug workflow across all engineering teams, **decreasing bug backlog by 40%**
- Successfully **led cross-company coordination** for high-visibility projects like the rebrand, delivered on time with zero critical regressions.
- Introduced **static code analysis** and **quality gates**, empowering product teams to iterate faster without sacrificing quality.
- Led strategic Shift Left initiative, integrating testing as early as possible in the development lifecycle and redefined QA role and processes
- Oversaw hiring, headcount planning, and vendor management.
- Collaborated with product and engineering leadership to define team OKRs and align quality initiatives with product delivery goals
- Developed a career development framework, creating growth plans and mentoring engineers into senior and leadership roles.

Unity Technologies | Unity Engine | Quality Manager (Engineering Manager)

February 2021 - August 2022, Berlin

September 2015 - February 2021, Odesa

- Led three distributed teams of senior engineers in the platform and foundation areas.
- Created a student worker programme that converted 100% into successful full-time hires
- Established internal metrics and dashboards to drive continuous quality improvements and promote a strong quality mindset
- Partnered with the Developer Experience team to **stabilise test infrastructure** and reduce flaky test incidents.
- Owned department-level quality strategy and worked directly with Engineering Directors on shared goals.
- Contributed to **cross-department hiring efforts**, including interview design and DEI initiatives.

- Represented Unity on forums and industry conferences in Eastern Europe.

Unity Technologies | Unity Engine | Software Developer in Test

July 2012 - September 2015, Odesa

- Developed internal frameworks and automated testing tools using C#, improving test coverage by 60% across several engine areas
- Drove early bug detection and developer education around testability and quality practices.
- Organised company-wide bug bashes and internal game jams to encourage engagement with product testing.
- Acted as a customer advocate by relaying feedback from Unity's user forums into engineering priorities.

HP BSM & HP SiteScope | QA Engineer -> Automation Engineer

2008 - 2012, Odesa

- Designed and maintained test automation using Java, QTP, and in-house tools.
- Led test coverage efforts and collaborated with dev teams on release readiness.
- Implemented automation tools to replace repetitive manual test tasks.
- Managed service pack releases and post-release validation workflows.

Education

Odesa National University / Master's Degree in Theoretical Mechanics and Computer Science

2009, Odesa

Awards

Ciklum, Values Award