Alkiviadis Tzaras

Software Engineer · AI Systems

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SUMMARY

Software engineer building LLM systems. Made the case internally for an AI role at an intergovernmental organisation, took it on, and built its AI portal as sole engineer. Before that, head of R&D at a Brussels startup whose product tracked legislation and media for public-affairs clients, leading up to 12 people. Academic background in economics and statistics, and experienced in explaining technical subjects to non-technical audiences, from statistics classes to workshops for public authorities.

EXPERIENCE

EFTA — EEA & Norway Grants August 2023 – Present

Data & Analytics Officer → Data & AI Officer *Brussels, Belgium*

Python, TypeScript, FastAPI, Pydantic AI, Svelte, SQL Server, Azure, Microsoft Foundry

- Built the organisation's internal AI portal as sole engineer: six LLM tools available to all 80 staff, including Q&A over legal agreements with citations. Search ranks the right source in the top 5 for 98% of 52 test questions.
- Answered donor questions like "how much do we fund for cancer?" by classifying ∼7,000 projects with an LLM, checked against expert judgement, replacing keyword searches.
- Proposed an AI function and was promoted into it (2026): wrote the organisation's first AI strategy and guidelines in line with the EU AI Act, and set up AI literacy training for staff.
- Built the organisation's public data portal as sole developer, instead of hiring an external team for an estimated EUR 150,000–200,000: interactive maps and charts covering two funding periods and nearly 7,000 projects.
- Found a retired system costing ∼EUR 27,400 a year to hold 3.2 GB of data, then moved the useful data and documents to infrastructure costing ∼EUR 150 a year.

Saper Vedere — public-affairs SaaS (Follaw.sv) April 2022 – July 2023

Lead Back-End Developer → Head of R&D *Brussels, Belgium*

Python, FastAPI, Flask, Elasticsearch, Vue, Docker, GitLab CI, AWS

- Led the backend behind the platform's core feature: one client query searched across every source with keyword and vector search (Elasticsearch), with results and metrics dashboards per source.
- Designed one shared pipeline for the 50+ sources feeding the platform (legislation, government open data, news and social media), replacing per-source scrapers and shrinking the codebase.
- Set up CI/CD on GitLab and wrote the codebase's first automated tests, replacing manual releases over SSH.
- Promoted to Head of R&D over all technical staff (up to 12): set the product roadmap with senior management and built the hiring process.

Le Wagon 2020 – 2023, part-time

Teacher, Data Science & Web Development bootcamps *Brussels, Belgium*

- Taught statistics, inference and regression to data science cohorts in Brussels and Amsterdam, and Ruby on Rails on the web development bootcamp.

Bruegel — Economics Think Tank April 2021 – April 2022

Research Assistant *Brussels, Belgium*

- Coordinated ∼12 researchers building the published Recovery and Resilience Plans dataset: every EU member state's plan, extracted from PDFs in national languages and made comparable.

EFTA — EEA & Norway Grants September 2017 – December 2019

Junior Professional → Officer, Results & Evaluation *Brussels, Belgium*

- Built a Python tool that generated indicator tables for grant agreements, cutting a 2–3 hour task to seconds.

PROJECTS

Greek History Atlas — atlas.tzaras.dev 2026

Solo prototype — source on GitHub

Python, TypeScript, FastAPI, Pydantic, shapely, Svelte, d3-geo, Cloudflare Workers

- Bilingual (English/Greek) interactive map of Greece's changing borders since 1821, with 127 historical events.

Kiden — kiden.app 2023 – 2026

Children's story generator, co-founded with two partners (backend and generation pipeline)

FastAPI, MongoDB, Pydantic AI, Gemini, Stripe, AWS S3, Logfire, Render, Linear

- Built the six-stage generation pipeline for illustrated, multi-chapter stories: writing, proofreading and structuring, then illustrations that keep the hero consistent across chapters, with the cost of every story tracked.
- Designed for child safety: users pick from fixed options, checked on the server, and cannot write their own prompts. The only typed input is the hero's name.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

LLM Systems: Claude Code, Pydantic AI, Microsoft Foundry, Gemini, RAG, hybrid search (BM25, rank fusion), retrieval evaluation, structured output, LLM classification

Programming: Python, SQL, TypeScript, JavaScript, Ruby

Frameworks & Libraries: FastAPI, Pydantic, Svelte, Vue, Flask, pandas, NumPy

Data: SQL Server, Azure SQL, MongoDB

Infrastructure: Azure, AWS, Docker, GitHub Actions, GitLab CI, Bicep, OpenTelemetry, Logfire

Certifications: AgilePM Practitioner (APMG International, valid to 2028)

Languages: Greek (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)

EDUCATION & TRAINING

MITx MicroMasters, Statistics and Data Science June 2026 – Present

Machine Learning with Python completed, further courses in progress

BlueDot Impact 2026

Technical AI Safety course

Evaluations, AI control, threat modelling, interpretability

Le Wagon January – March 2020

Coding Bootcamp — Full-Stack Web Development (Ruby on Rails, JavaScript) *Brussels, Belgium*

University of Ioannina 2015 – 2017

MSc, Economic Analysis & Policy — thesis graded 9.5/10 *Ioannina, Greece*

University of Ioannina 2010 – 2015

BSc, Economics *Ioannina, Greece*