Ilia Postolaki

Senior software developer · B2B contractor · Consultant

Python · Backend · Full stack

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PROFILE

Software engineer and team lead with 10+ years of experience. I like building complex systems from scratch, based on business requirements, and I enjoy both writing code and leading a team. Backend and Python are the core of my work. I also ship frontend and DevOps when the product needs it.

I am inspired to work with mission-driven companies. The intention behind the system is what matters.

SKILLS

Soft skills	System architecture, team leadership, project management, requirements gathering, release planning, code review, incident response, hiring and candidates selection
Domains	Backend systems, payments, fintech, investments, sustainability, renewable energy
Stack primary	Python, Django, DRF, FastAPI, Flask, Pydantic, SQLAlchemy, Celery, JavaScript
Stack secondary	JavaScript, TypeScript, Node.js, React, Vite, NPM, Tailwind, DaisyUI, Alpine.js, HTMX, Web Awesome, D3.js
Infrastructure	PostgreSQL, Redis, RabbitMQ, Docker, Kubernetes, uv, Poetry, AWS, Google Cloud, Scaleway, Neo4j, gRPC, Keycloak
AI	Cursor, Hermes, OpenSpec, OpenAI, OpenWebUI, OpenRouter, OpenCode, Warp, LM Studio, Obsidian
Languages	English — bilingual · Russian — native · Dutch — basic · Romanian — fluent

Roles and projects

Tech Lead, Backend

Jul 2025 – Aug 2026

Company	InvestEngine
Location	London, UK · remote

ETF portfolio-management platform. Joined as a senior developer. Promoted to tech lead of a new payments-processing team of 4.

- Worked on business logic for payments and transactions processing and reconciliation. Owned architecture and documentation for new functionality.
- Gathered requirements, planned workload, and coordinated across teams.
- Coordinated duty and incident response for critical production features. Ran performance reviews.

Stack	Python, Django (DRF), Celery, RabbitMQ, SQL, Pydantic, Redis, AWS, Docker, Kubernetes, Sentry, Grafana, Graylog, Retool, Metabase

Tech Lead, Backend

Mar 2022 – Feb 2025

Company: Metabolic · product now Spirefly

Location: Amsterdam · remote / hybrid

Platform for corporate nature and biodiversity assessment, used by sustainability professionals. Joined as a senior developer. Promoted to tech lead of a hybrid remote team of 7.

- Helped design, build, and launch the MVP as a monolith: dataset import and validation, processing pipeline, and UI API.
- Led the rebuild of that monolith into a microservices architecture.
- Architecture and documentation; requirements and workload breakdown; mentoring; tech-debt planning.

Stack: Python, FastAPI, PostgreSQL, SQLAlchemy, Alembic, Google Cloud, Docker, Kubernetes, gRPC, Keycloak

Senior Backend Developer

May 2018 – Dec 2021

Company: ZonnepanelenDelen / WeShareSolar

Location: Amsterdam / on-site

Equity investment platform for solar energy projects.

- Helped design, build, and launch the website for project funding and investment management.
- Designed an abstract payments layer so the product could support multiple payment providers.
- Contributed to a Python 2 → 3 migration of a large legacy codebase.
- Feature delivery, peak-load monitoring, documentation, code review, mentoring, and hiring.

Stack: Python, Django, Wagtail, Celery, Redis, JavaScript, Ansible, AWS, DigitalOcean, PostgreSQL, OpenAPI, IoT

Software Team Lead

Dec 2016 – May 2018

Company: Ginger Payments

Location: Amsterdam / on-site

White-label platform for payment service providers. The first developer on a new team. Led 8 people integrating new payment methods into the existing PSP.

- Python for transaction processing: authorization, capture, settlement, and reconciliation.
- Microservices for new payment methods and third-party APIs, with PCI constraints in mind.
- Git-flow releases, documentation, and code review.
- Agile planning, user stories with acceptance criteria, stakeholder communication, and hiring.

Stack: Python, Flask, JavaScript, AWS, DynamoDB, Docker, microservices, Sentry, REST

Full-stack contractor

May 2016 – Dec 2016

Company Oberliht NGO · urbana.md

Location Remote

Website for coordination and guidance of local civil activists. Gathered requirements and delivered the full stack for a nonprofit.

Stack Python, Django, Wagtail CMS, PostgreSQL, Docker, jQuery, HTML, CSS, Bootstrap

Backend developer

Dec 2015 – May 2016

Company NewStore

Location Berlin · remote / hybrid

Mobile e-commerce platform.

- Backend work on the existing microservices architecture, including payments services and thorough unit tests.
- Built a live graph of service RPC connections (Sigma.js, Flask) so the team could see dataflow and debug faster.

Stack Python, Pyramid, Flask, asyncio, SQLAlchemy, Docker, JSON Schema, WebSocket, server-sent events

Software developer / Team lead (iOS)

Aug 2013 – Nov 2014

Company Depositphotos

Location Kyiv / on-site

Mirrow.me — an iOS wardrobe organizer that suggested new ways to combine garments from user preferences. Hiring, data-analysis development, cross-department workflow, and product planning.

Stack Objective-C, Python, Node.js, MongoDB, Redis, REST

Personal hobbies

Yoga, sailing, DJing. I travel often and like discovering new places.

TAGS

Python · Django (DRF) · Celery · RabbitMQ · Huey · SQL · Pydantic · Redis · AWS · Docker · Kubernetes · Nginx · Gunicorn · Caddy · uv · Poetry · Vite · Sentry · Grafana · Graylog · Retool · Metabase · FastAPI · PostgreSQL · MongoDB · SQLAlchemy · Alembic · Google Cloud · gRPC · Keycloak · Django · Wagtail · JavaScript · Ansible · DigitalOcean · OpenAPI · IoT · Flask · DynamoDB · microservices · REST · Wagtail CMS · jQuery · HTML · CSS · Bootstrap · Pyramid · asyncio · JSON Schema · WebSocket · server-sent events · Objective-C · Node.js · TypeScript · Tailwind · HTMX · Alpine.js · React · NPM · DaisyUI · Web Awesome · D3.js