

Alena Bukilic Dragicevic

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alena-bukilic/>

Location: Porto, Portugal

Engineering Leader with 10+ years of experience building and scaling software products across startups and growth-stage tech companies. Proven track record in leading cross-functional teams, managing engineering organizations of 20+ people distributed across different locations, and delivering scalable systems on cloud infrastructure. Passionate about mentoring talent, fostering a culture of collaboration and open communication, driving Agile practices, and aligning technology with business outcomes through effective stakeholder influence and change management.

SKILLS

Technical: JavaScript, TypeScript, Node.js, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, Elasticsearch, Angular, React, AWS, GCP, Docker, Terraform, RESTful APIs, GraphQL, GitHub, NewRelic

Leadership: Engineering Leadership, Project Management, Strategic Planning, Stakeholder Management, Team Development, Talent Retention & Mentoring, Agile Methodologies, Budget Management, Hiring

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Engineering Manager

Testlio (QA software testing) – Porto, Portugal (Remote) | Sep 2025 – Present

- Lead day-to-day operations for a dedicated development team, ensuring high-velocity delivery using Agile practices, while maintaining high standards for code quality, scalability, and performance.
- Oversaw SDLC for microservices using GraphQL, Node.js, React, MySQL, MariaDB on AWS.
- Own the product roadmap and blueprinting process, translating complex stakeholder requirements into actionable technical strategies and priorities.
- Manage the end-to-end employee lifecycle, including performance reviews, mentorship, and career growth, to foster a high-performing team culture.
- Act as the primary technical point of contact, aligning team outputs with business goals and representing service capabilities to clients and internal stakeholders.

Tech Stack: Node.js, React, MySQL, MariaDB, AWS, GraphQL

Engineering Manager

Intergiro (Fintech) – Porto, Portugal (Remote) | Feb 2025 – Sep 2025

- Led 24 engineers across 7 cross-functional teams, ensuring efficient operations and on-time delivery using Agile practices and DORA metrics.
- Oversaw SDLC for microservices using REST APIs, Node.js, React, MySQL, PostgreSQL on GCP.
- Managed department budget, hiring, salary and performance reviews aligned with business growth.
- Drove strategic planning, OKR alignment, and effective stakeholder engagement by building strong relationships and influencing key decisions across teams.
- Designed and implemented engineering career progression framework to foster career

growth and talent retention.

- Mentored Team Leads to grow into Engineering Manager and Principal Engineer roles.

Tech Stack: Node.js, React, MySQL, PostgreSQL, GCP, REST APIs

Engineering Manager

Florence Healthcare (Healthtech) – Porto, Portugal (Remote) | Oct 2023 – Feb 2025

- Directed 3 cross-functional teams (22 professionals) to deliver high-quality solutions.
- Led scalable microservices development using REST APIs, Node.js, MongoDB, PostgreSQL on AWS.
- Championed Agile best practices, increasing delivery velocity and innovation culture.
- Managed internal/external stakeholder communications and resource planning, to align project goals and resolve conflicts proactively.
- Developed and promoted 3 Senior Engineers to Technical Leads, mentoring them to excel as successful leaders and domain experts.

Tech Stack: Node.js, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, AWS, REST APIs

Technical Lead

Florence Healthcare (Healthtech) – Belgrade, Serbia | Apr 2022 – Oct 2023

- Led 13-person cross-functional team in building a core product using modern cloud-native stack.
- Managed planning, prioritization, and technical design through effective cross-functional collaboration and transparent communication with stakeholders.
- Drove change management efforts by introducing new development processes, and supported team morale and retention through personalized mentorship.

Tech Stack: Angular, Node.js, MongoDB, Terraform, AWS ECS, Lambda, SQS

Senior Software Engineer

Florence Healthcare (Healthtech) – Belgrade, Serbia | Jan 2022 – Apr 2022

- Led technical design and implementation of key product features using TypeScript and AWS.
- Established system monitoring and alerting using NewRelic for production reliability.

Tech Stack: TypeScript, Angular, Node.js, MongoDB, AWS

Software Engineer

Florence Healthcare (Healthtech) – Belgrade, Serbia | Mar 2018 – Jan 2022

- Developed scalable backend and frontend solutions with a focus on quality and testing.
- Delivered projects from inception to production release and collaborated cross-functionally to meet deadlines.

Tech Stack: Node.js, Hapi.js, Angular, MongoDB, AWS, Docker, Elasticsearch

Web Developer and Event Manager

PartyPlan (Digital Agency) – Belgrade, Serbia | Aug 2015 – Mar 2018

- Designed and maintained websites using WordPress, HTML, CSS, JavaScript.
- Managed event logistics, client acquisition, and vendor coordination.

Tech Stack: WordPress, HTML, CSS, JavaScript

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

BA & MA in International Relations, University of Belgrade, 2007 – 2014

CS50: Introduction to Computer Science, Harvard University, 2018

Full Stack Web Development Certification, FreeCodeCamp, 2017 – 2018

Cloud Developer Nanodegree, Udacity, 2020 – 2021

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Technology Advancement, Sci-fi, Writing, Cooking, Video Games