

Sara Zanzottera

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I am an experienced open-source maintainer with a focus on Python. I worked on projects ranging from particle accelerator frontends to data pipelines, IoT projects, web apps, and LLM frameworks: I love learning and diving deep into unfamiliar domains until I master them. I thrive in remote, unstructured, multicultural teams where quick iteration cycles and continuous delivery are key. I have a lot of experience handling community over several channels, but I love variety: other than coding I also enjoy writing documentation, tutorials, blogposts and giving talks.

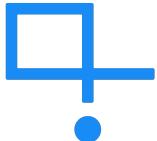
Check out my GitHub profile (<https://github.com/ZanSara/>) and my blog (<https://www.zansara.dev/>).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NLP Engineer

deepset GmbH - Sep. 2021 to Feb. 2024

Core maintainer of the Haystack framework (<https://github.com/deepset-ai/haystack/>). Haystack is a mature open-source project which started out as a very advanced NLP framework for question answering and evolved into a complete LLM framework.



My tasks included:

- Implementing new features, writing integrations for external libraries
- Handling community questions and bug reports over GitHub and Discord
- Managing external PRs: reviewing them, helping the contributors with CI issues, and bringing them to merge
- Writing documentation for new features (internal or externally contributed)
- Writing example code, tutorials, Colab notebooks, blog posts
- Hosting Office Hours on Discord, webinars, meetup talks, conference talks.

Software Engineer

CERN - Feb. 2018 to Aug. 2021

Python expert of the group, mentoring several colleagues. I led the renovation of a Python data pipeline for the accelerator's instrumentation, closely iterated with the PyQt GUIs team to develop a RAD framework for physicists, and developed a Java application for particle accelerator technicians to manage low-level applications



Full Stack Developer

CAI (Italian Alpine Club) - 2015 to 2021

Several contracts, including:

- The ZanzoCam Project (<https://zanzocam.github.io/en>), an autonomous webcam based on Raspberry Pi. Deployed in 2021 in ~100 huts on the Italian Alps.
- A web frontend for a canyoning trails GIS database. Deployed in 2019.
- A web application managing bookings for a mountain hut. Deployed in 2016.



EDUCATION



Double MSc in Data Science
EIT Digital, POLIMI & UNS
2016 - 2018



BSc in Computer Engineering
POLIMI & Tongji
2013 - 2016