# SARA ZANZOTTERA

## NLP ENGINEER

Lisbon, Portugal

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A rapid learner and problem solver, always excited to find simple solutions to complex challenges. I have experience with Python on projects ranging from particle accelerator frontends to data pipelines, IoT projects, web apps, and Open Source LLM frameworks. I am currently focusing on NLP and Generative AI. I thrive in remote, fast-paced, multicultural teams where quick iteration cycles and continuous delivery are key. At deepset I've been leading a major product rewrite, which improved my leadership, management, and product design skills.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### deepset

NLP Engineer • 2021 - Present • Remote

- #1 Individual Contributor for the Haystack framework (https://github.com/deepset-ai/haystack/)
- Lead developer and product manager of Haystack 2.0, a full rewrite of the library
- Original author of the Canals framework (https://github.com/deepset-ai/canals/)

*Blog posts and talks: https://www.zansara.dev/tags/haystack/*

### CERN

Software Engineer • 2018 - 2021 • Geneva, Switzerland

- Python expert of the group, mentoring several colleagues
- Renovation of a Python data pipeline for the accelerator's instrumentation
- Closely iterating with the PyQt GUIs team to develop a RAD framework for technicians
- Development of a Java app for particle accelerator technicians to manage low-level applications

*Published articles: https://www.zansara.dev/publications/*

### CAI

Full-Stack Software Engineer • 2015–2021 • Remote, per-contract

- The ZanzoCam Project (https://zanzocam.github.io/en), a webcam based on Raspberry Pi. autonomous on solar power during the winter. Deployed in 2021 in ~100 huts on the Italian Alps.
- A browsing and management frontend for a canyoning trails GIS database. Deployed in 2019.
- A web application managing bookings for a mountain hut. Deployed in 2016, still maintained.

*ZanzoCam project overview: https://www.zansara.dev/projects/zanzocam/*

## HARD SKILLS

Python • NLP • LLMs • GPT • HuggingFace • Transformers • SentenceTransformers • Embeddings • Vector stores • Software Engineering • API Design • Open Source • Haystack • AI • FastAPI • Streamlit • GNU/Linux

## SOFT SKILLS

Strong problem-solving and analytical skills • High versatility • Rapid, eager learner • Clear, open communication • Sync and async remote collaboration • Critical thinking • Attention to detail • Product decisions • Self-starter • Quick iterations

## EDUCATION

**Double MSc, Data Science**
EIT Digital, POLIMI & UNS • 2016–2018

**BSc, Computer Science**
POLIMI & Tongji • 2013–2016