

# Evripidis Vakalis

*Backend & API Integration Engineer specializing in scalable, efficient services*

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## Summary

Senior backend engineer with expertise in PHP (Symfony) and Python (Django), APIs and e-commerce platforms. Experienced in building and maintaining scalable services and integrations, designing reliable data flows, and mentoring engineers. Comfortable working in microservice and cloud environments with strong practical knowledge of databases and deployment tooling.

## Technologies

**Languages:** PHP, Python, SQL, JavaScript

**Frameworks:** Symfony, Django, WordPress, WooCommerce, OpenCart

**Databases:** MySQL, MariaDB, MongoDB

**Infrastructure & Tools:** Docker, GKE, Git, Jira, Gearman, Jenkins, CI/CD

**Other:** REST & SOAP APIs, Microservices, Web scraping, Data analysis, eCommerce integrations

## Experience

**PHP Software Engineer - Tech Lead (Remote)** @ TravelStaytion

2023 – Present

### Architecture & Code Quality

- Led backend development for API integration services in a microservice environment.
- Redesigned the integration architecture, introducing a consistent, modular structure for third-party APIs.
- Established best practices using DTOs, single-responsibility functions, and standardized error handling.

### Performance & Reliability

- Refactored legacy code and reduced duplication, improving maintainability and developer onboarding.
- Optimized database queries and background jobs, reducing API latency and synchronization errors.

### Collaboration & Mentorship

- Collaborated in an Agile team with **Jira**, ensuring timely delivery and cross-team alignment.
- Contributed to production deployments on **GKE**, using Docker-based workflows.
- Mentored junior engineers on architecture and coding standards and performed code reviews.

**Tech:** PHP, Symfony, MariaDB, APIs, MySQL, MongoDB, GKE, Memcached, Gearman, Docker, Jenkins

**Web Developer - eCommerce Website Administrator @ Soundstar**

2016 - 2022

**eCommerce & Digital Growth**

- Designed and launched the company's WordPress/WooCommerce platform, integrating inventory and payments.
- Led digital transformation, tripling organic traffic and increasing sales.

**Automation & Data Systems**

- Built a **Django-based scraping and reporting tool** for pricing insights.
- Developed internal analytics and marketing automation using Python and KNIME.

**Team & Operations**

- Coordinated content, marketing, and technical teams.
- Mentored junior engineers and managed vendors and hosting providers.

**Tech:** WordPress, WooCommerce, Python, Django, HTML, CSS, PHP, JavaScript, KNIME, Web Scraping, Data Analysis

**Web developer - PC service - IT @ Adminia**

2013 - 2015

- Developed and maintained CMS sites (OpenCart, WordPress, Joomla, Drupal).
- Provided workstation support, hardware repair and remote assistance for customers.

**Tech:** Opencart, Wordpress, HTML, CSS, PHP, JS

**Internship in the department of electronics @ Hellenic Aerospace Industry**

2010

- Programming and operating SMD assembly machinery.  
(Department of Automatic Assembly)
- Participation in wireless network design and installation. (Space and Satellites Networks and Applications Department)

**Education****MSc, Postgraduate specialization in information systems**

2020 - 2025

Hellenic Open University

Remote postgraduate programme

**Thesis:** Automatic legal text classification on European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) cases

**BSc, Automation Technician**

2004 - 2014

Technological Educational Institute of Central Greece

**Artificial intelligence (Courses taught in English)**

2007 - 2008

Southern University of Denmark - Odense

Erasmus Mundus Programme

### **Additional Certificates**

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens  
Centre of Continuous Education and Training

<b>Data Analyst</b>	2018
<b>Website and marketing operations for small tourist units</b>	2018
<b>Digital Marketing</b>	2017
<b>Marketing and Branding Mix</b>	2017

### **Languages**

**Greek:** Native

**English:** Fluent in speaking, reading and writing (First Certificate in English, University of Cambridge)