

# SARDANA IVANOVA

Helsinki, Finland • sardana.n.ivanova@gmail.com • [LinkedIn](#) • Authorized to work in the EU

AI researcher with 7 years of experience in two universities and several companies, including 1 year leading a team of 3 engineers. Proficient in Python and deep learning frameworks. Experienced with Generative AI and LLMs. Planned, implemented and launched a Danish tax law agent using Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG).

## Experience

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### Chief Science Officer

*Populous Analytics - Danish lawtech startup*

Helsinki (remote)

Dec 2023 - Jan 2025

- Managed the full development life cycle using Agile methodologies.
- Collaborated with stakeholders to define tasks, set milestones, assign work to developers and external contractors.
- Created Danish LLMs by fine-tuning open-source models utilising quantization and low-rank adaptation.
- Experimented with LangChain and decided to create own implementation for interactions with a model.
- Successfully transitioned the product from a working prototype to a paid subscription service.
- Created comprehensive documentation and a service catalog, improving the usability and maintainability of the service.

### NLP Specialist

*Kasvu Labs - Finnish IT startup*

Helsinki

Dec 2022 - Oct 2023

- Worked on natural language processing tasks including summarization, emotion classification, emotions categorisation, and hard and soft skills detection for mental health and smart recruitment applications.

### Doctoral researcher

*University of Helsinki*

Helsinki

Jan 2019 - Mar 2024

- Trained Finnish, Swedish and English poetry generation models which are now used in an exhibit in Heureka.
- Managed creation of a question answering dataset for Norwegian language.
- Developed an open-source morphological analyser for Sakha—a Turkic language spoken in Siberia with 90% coverage.
- Implemented a back-end of a language-learning platform using Python and Flask.
- Trained machine translation models for Turkic languages.

### C++ programmer

*Mytona - a game development company*

Yakutsk

Jun 2014 - Dec 2015

- Implemented a cross-platform mobile game with C++.
- Worked as a level designer.
- Participated in quality assurance.

## Education

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### University of Helsinki

PhD in Computer Science

Helsinki

GPA: 5.0/5

2024

## Skills

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### Technical:

- Python, PyTorch
- NLP frameworks: spaCy, NLTK
- Large language model APIs: OpenAI, Mistral, LLaMA
- Model training, evaluation, and deployment
- Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)
- Databases: SQL and NoSQL
- Web technologies: HTML, CSS

### Soft skills

- Agile Project Management
- Attention to detail
- Self-discipline and organization
- International collaboration
- Communication and teamwork
- Critical thinking
- Fast learning

**Language Skills:** English fluent, Russian native, Sakha native, Finnish intermediate, Japanese intermediate