

Aris Zounarakis

Barcelona, Spain | Email: ariszoun@gmail.com | LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/aris-zounarakis/> | GitLab: <https://gitlab.com/ariszoun> | GitHub: <https://github.com/ai21z>

Summary

Back-end-focused Full-Stack Engineer (M.Sc.). I build Java/Spring services and ship user-facing React/Angular features. I create web & local-first tools with Apache Lucene and LLM integrations (retrieval-augmented generation, RAG, Ollama). I author runbooks that teammates trust and I deliver steady results when requirements stay unclear. **Current:** ADP (Lyric HCM). **Open source:** LOQ-J, True-Rolls.

Target roles: Back-End Engineer (Java/Spring) • Full-Stack (Java + React/Angular)

Skills

Languages: Java, JavaScript, TypeScript, Python, SQL

Back end: Spring Boot, REST APIs, MyBatis, JPA, Gradle, Maven

Datastores: PostgreSQL, MariaDB

AI & IR (local-first): Apache Lucene (BM25, vectors), retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), large language models (LLMs), Ollama

Front end: React, Angular, WebGL, HTML, CSS

Quality: JUnit 5, Mockito, property-based testing, CI/CD, code review

Ops & tools: Docker, Linux, Git, GitHub/GitLab workflows

Work Experience

ADP - Software Engineer (Lyric HCM)

Barcelona, Spain | Jul 2024 - Present

- Shipping country-compliant payroll capabilities, in a segmented global architecture under high legal and policy flux (Java/Spring Boot).
- Delivering cross-regional fixes while maintaining SLAs (service-level agreements) and release cadence across 3-4 regions (strict compliance enforced).
- Authoring developer runbooks, ADRs (architecture decision records), and troubleshooting docs, reducing ramp-up by ~10-20% for teammates.
- Internal Hackathon (2025): 2nd place overall and Creativity & Innovation Trophy for a proof of concept that ingests internal documentation and drafts actionable engineering tickets with implementation guidance (internal-only data, no code disclosed).

DataAnnotation - Software Engineer, AI Model Evaluation (Code) (Self-employed)

Remote | Jan 2024 - Dec 2024

- Reviewed and scored LLM code-generation outputs across Java, JavaScript/TypeScript, Python, C#, and SQL, including common frameworks (Spring/.NET, Express/Flask, React/Angular).
- Verified solutions by reading/running code, diagnosed compiler/runtime errors, wrote concise rationales and corrective guidance.
- Designed and reviewed prompts and acceptance tests for coding, refactoring, test generation, debugging, and code explanation tasks.
- Work performed ad hoc outside primary job hours, fully remote, under NDA and conflict-of-interest boundaries.

Netcompany-Intrasoft - Software Engineer (EU Programmes)

Remote, Greece | Mar 2022 - Mar 2024

Worked on two live EU statistical platforms: ESDEN (European Statistical Data Exchange Network) and SDMXRI (Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange - Reference Infrastructure).

- Delivered full-stack features in Java/Spring and React/Angular in Agile/Scrum teams.
- Migrated a legacy team database to a modern platform version on a short timeline.
- Served as a cross-team knowledge bridge, authored ~80% of technical documentation and ADRs to accelerate onboarding and development.
- Technologies: Java, Spring Boot, React, Angular, SQL, Git.

Fine Arts Studio - Developer (Contract)

Mar 2021 - May 2021

- Build and maintain a catalog webpage of 1,000+ products, improved product data quality and user experience, view here: <https://fineartsstudio.gr/>.

Projects

LOQ-J (open source) - Local-first Java CLI for secure developer workflows

Aug 2025 - Present

Security-first tool addressing reluctance to share data with cloud providers. Combines Apache Lucene (BM25 + vectors) and local LLMs (Ollama) for RAG workflows with offline capability.

- Java 21+, Picocli CLI, lightweight service layer, reproducible configs.
- Designed fast re-indexing to support agile local search workflows.
- Role: architecture, Lucene modules, HTTP integration, CLI UX, documentation.
- GitHub: <https://github.com/ai21z/loq-j>

True-Rolls - Verifiable Randomness SDK for Games & Tournaments

Mar 2025 - Present

Cryptographically verifiable dice roller for tamper-proof outcomes and receipts.

- Uses ChaCha20 cryptographically secure pseudorandom number generator (CSPRNG), hash-chains, inverse-CDF sampling, and an entropy handshake.
- Produces portable JSON receipts with roll metadata and cryptographic proof for local, offline auditability.
- Supports weighted distributions with fairness guardrails.
- Use cases: virtual tabletops, tournament verification, tamper-proof game events.
- Status: in development (private for now).

Education

M.Sc., Software Engineering - University of Thessaly, Greece (2019 - 2021)

- Thesis: Refactored an old Java EE application by adding a REST API with improved security and test coverage.

Certifications

Oracle SQL - Database Design and Programming
UNIC - DevOps Competences for Smart Cities (University of Nicosia MOOC)
Udemy - Java EE 8, Testing Java with JUnit 5, JavaScript (ES6)
Oracle - Cloud Infrastructure 2023 Certified Foundations Associate
Udemy - Azure Active Directory Identity Management
Coursera - Blockchain Specialization
GFOSS - Front-End Development

Awards

- ADP Internal Hackathon (2025) - 2nd Place. Creativity & Innovation Trophy.
- Hackcorona (2020) - Team 6th Place (emergency telemedicine app).

Publications & Writing

Title: My 1st Year as a Software Engineer: Lessons Learned - LinkedIn (2024)

Practical lessons learned from the challenges I faced, and how I built calm delivery habits that helped me until now.

Link: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/my-1st-year-software-engineer-lessons-learned-ariz-zounarakis/>

Title: Fail Fast, Learn Faster: Instinct & Purpose - LinkedIn (2025)

How small bets, feedback loops, and clear ownership accelerate teams, frameworks used for decision-making and retros.

Link: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/fail-fast-learn-faster-instinct-purpose-ariz-zounarakis-jo6ff/>

Languages

Greek (Native), English (Fluent), Spanish (A2)