

Yana Makovskaya

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Location: Belgrade, Serbia / Open to relocation

Summary

Senior ML/AI Engineer, 5 years of experience. Specialize in Computer Vision, Generative AI. Making ML fast, accurate and cost-efficient. Built automated multitask Computer Vision system (2M+ media processed), image/video generation service, and data labeling pipeline at an early-stage startup. Fine-tune and deploy models with PyTorch + HF Transformers; maintain ML infra on: FastAPI, AWS SQS/S3, Docker, MongoDB. Effective cross-team communication and deep focus under pressure.

Experience

Senior ML/AI Engineer — SpicyAI (Sep 2022 – Present, Remote)

AI startup: B2C AI-companion product + B2B/B2C AI-agent platform for 3K+ creators to manage fan communication. Joined as employee #3 and grew to senior.

- Solved media-matching for LLM chatbot: built Computer Vision system from scratch — trained 80-class tagging (90%+ avg accuracy), price prediction, clustering, captioning. 2M+ media processed.
- AI image/video generation: trained LoRAs (Flux, SDXL) eliminating character inconsistency + anatomy issues, inferencing with kohya_ss and ComfyUI API, developed dialogue-to-image/video pipeline with prompt builder.
- Designed data labeling pipeline for team of 6: created consistency measurement tools, annotation guidelines, cross-labeled data processing. Addressed data gaps with pseudo-labeling + synthetic generation.
- Fine-tuned 70B LLM chatbot — overcame GPU memory constraints, conducted cost-benefit analysis for production.
- Inherited TTS service — fast onboarding, resolved outstanding issues, became sole maintainer.
- Maintained projects infrastructure (FastAPI, AWS SQS/S3, Docker, MongoDB) — optimized VRAM, costs, and real-time inference at startup scale.

Data Scientist — IVI (Mar 2021 – Sep 2022, Moscow)

Online streaming platform, 40M+ monthly users, 15k+ titles. Grew from intern to mid-level in 1.5 years.

- Improved gender prediction for targeted recommendations: accuracy 0.63 → 0.90 using NLP features + gradient boosting + ensembling.
- Launched actor recommendation feature — increased conversion from impression to watch.
- Operated daily-retrained ML models for churn, purchase, and demographic prediction — used across business analytics and marketing teams.
- Optimized data pipelines processing millions of entries daily — SQL (ClickHouse), pandas, numpy.

Skills

- **ML/AI:** Computer Vision, Generative AI (Diffusion Models, LoRA, Text2Image, Image2Video), LLMs, Recommendation Systems, Gradient Boosting, Deep Learning, MLOps, Data Labeling, Prompt Engineering
 - **Models:** Flux, SDXL, Wan2.2, HunyuanVideo, LLaMA, DeBERTa, ViT, CatBoost
 - **Tools:** Python, PyTorch, HuggingFace Transformers, scikit-learn, ComfyUI, kohya_ss, OpenCV, FFmpeg, Pandas, NumPy, Label Studio, W&B, Matplotlib, Poetry, uv
 - **Infrastructure:** FastAPI, AWS SQS/S3, Docker, MongoDB, SQL, ClickHouse, Git, CI/CD, Kibana, Grafana, RunPod
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Education

Bachelor's in Software Engineering — Bauman Moscow State Technical University (2017–2021)

- Top technical university in Russia
 - Bachelor's thesis: "Segmentation Method for Classification of Medical Dermatoscopy Images Using Densely Connected Convolutional Neural Networks"
 - Academic group leader
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Certifications

Deep Learning Specialization — DeepLearning.AI (Coursera, 2020)

- Neural Networks and Deep Learning
 - Improving Deep Neural Networks
 - Structuring Machine Learning Projects
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Interests

Psychology, AI Art, Gamedev, Music Production, Singing

References

Illia Lubenets — CTO at SpicyAI | [LinkedIn](#) | me@londra.dev

"Yana is a strong Data Science Engineer who combines solid technical skills with a practical, product-oriented mindset. She delivers reliable results, communicates clearly, and is great to work with in fast-paced teams."

Tural Gurbanov — Director of Engineering, Recommendations at SoundCloud (ex-CDO at IVI) | [LinkedIn](#)

"I had the opportunity to be Yana's manager at the very beginning of her ML career. Yana is a strong specialist who is able to dive quickly into new topics and is not afraid to learn and practice new things. This is an extremely valuable skill in a world of technology that is changing at the speed of light."