



Biagio Distefano

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📅 Date of birth: 09/09/1992 🇮🇹 Nationality: Italian

ABOUT ME

I'm a **Senior Python Developer** coming from the **Legal-Tech** world, now working in **eHealth**.

My greatest professional focus is to acquire a wide range of interdisciplinary skills in order to combine them, gain new perspectives and invent new solutions to all sorts of problems. My background is in legal automation, AI and DLTs: I'm both a jurist – with a deep education in Italian and European Law – and an all-rounded programmer, with experience in AI & Law, Smart Contract development, now focusing on **backend development in the eHealth** industry, and developing amazing software for the **HL7's FHIR Standard**.

WORK EXPERIENCE

[12/2022 – Current]

Senior Python Developer

Black Tusk GmbH

City: Wien

Country: Austria

Development of **eHealth** applications based on the **FHIR** standard; coaching and mentoring Jr. developers.

- Development of **FastAPI** and **Django** FHIR server;
- Development of FHIR-search engine with **Neo4j**'s graph database;
- Development of core **FHIR** libraries;
- Unit testing and integration testing;
- Development and design of product architecture;
- **Docker** & co.
- Managing **PostgreSQL**
- Managing **Neo4j**
- **Celery**, **Redis** and whatnot
- CI/CD with Azure devops

[10/2021 – 11/2022]

CTO

Sweet Legal Tech srl

City: Milan

Country: Italy

Single out technologies and supervise development of legal automation tools for law firms and companies

[07/2019 – 11/2022]

Senior Python Backend Developer

Law Engineering Systems srl

City: Siena

Country: Italy

Project management; supervision of product development; partner engagement. Coding like there's no tomorrow.

Main activities managed, supervised or developed:

1. Development of data aggregators for legal knowledge
2. Development of data parsers for legal documents
3. Development of core libraries
4. Development of Django REST APIs
5. Development of microservices with FastAPI
6. Managing PostgreSQL, Neo4j, Elasticsearch, Meilisearch, Redis
7. Development of FTS engine
8. Development of NLP tools for legal language
9. Data mining of legal knowledge
10. Development of custom DLT solutions

[31/10/2019 – 29/09/2021]

Research Associate - Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) Early Stage Researcher (ESR)

University of Vienna • University of Bologna • University of Torino

City: Vienna

Country: Austria

Doctoral student in the Law, Science and Technology Joint Doctorate – Rights of Internet of Everything (LAST-JD-RIoE) (Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions Innovative Training Network European Joint Doctorate) program, researching the topic: *DLTs beyond financial applications: eDemocracy and new forms of governance*

[30/09/2018 – 29/09/2019]

Research Fellow in Legal Informatics / Python developer

CIRSFID - University of Bologna

City: Bologna

Country: Italy

Development of API infrastructure with Django and Flask for all of the following projects. Legal documents automated analysis, parsing and xml structuring in various projects such as:

- LexDatafication: Italian Government's Cabinet, State Mint, Constitutional and Cassation Court project for automated legal documents parsing, data extraction, analysis and Akoma Ntoso markup for Italy's legislative and judiciary documents
- Formex2AKN: project for automated conversion of legal and judiciary documents from EU's EurLex and CELLAR's fmx4 to Akoma Ntoso xml
- SANKOFA: Challenge for the United Nations: machine learning-based data analysis and extraction, markup and conversion of UN's resolutions into Akoma Ntoso xml, for text classification and ontology extraction (1st price)

[30/09/2015 – 29/06/2016]

Lawyer trainee

Avv. Mirko Mecacci

City: Siena

Country: Italy

[30/05/2015 – 29/06/2016]

Board Member

MondoMangione soc. coop.

City: Siena

Country: Italy

- Legal Advisor
- Internal Audit

DIGITAL SKILLS

Python - General

Python3 | REGEX | requests | PEP8 | aiohttp | AWS Boto3 | Async / Await | Recursive Programming | multiprocessing | peewee | ORMs | Psycopg2 | SQLAlchemy | tqdm | virtualenv | logging | Pydantic | object-oriented programming | Sphinx | Typing | Unit Testing | pip

Python - Backend

Django | FastAPI | Flask | GraphQL | JWT | OpenAPI | Django REST Framework | Nginx Web Server | REST | Microservices | OAuth2

Python - NLP

SpaCy | Prodigy | Gensim | word2vec

Databases

eXistDB | Redis | MongoDB | ArangoDB | Neo4j | SQLite | PostgreSQL

Blockchain and DLTs

Ethereum | IPFS | Truffle | Smart Contracts | Solidity

Other

Linux | HTML5/CSS, Javascript | Akoma Ntoso | XML | CI | Git | AWS | Docker

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

[31/10/2019 – Current]

PhD in Law, Science and Technology

University of Vienna

Field(s) of study: Law and technology

Level in EQF: EQF level 8

Thesis: DLTs Beyond Financial Applications: eDemocracy and New Forms of Governance

[02/2019 – 04/2019]

Blockchain Specialization

State University of New York - University at Buffalo (via Coursera.org)

[31/10/2015 – 06/06/2017]

Specialization Degree in Legal Professions

School of Specialization for Legal Professions - University of Siena

City: Siena

Country: Italy

Level in EQF: EQF level 8

[30/09/2010 – 15/07/2015]

Master's Degree in Law

University of Siena

City: Siena

Country: Italy

Field(s) of study: Law

Final grade: 110 cum laude **Level in EQF:** EQF level 7

Thesis: Corporate criminal liability in corporate groups

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): Italian

Other language(s):

English

LISTENING C2 READING C2 WRITING C2

SPOKEN PRODUCTION C2 SPOKEN INTERACTION C2

German

LISTENING B1 READING B1 WRITING A2

SPOKEN PRODUCTION A2 SPOKEN INTERACTION A2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- [16/06/2019] **First Place - UNGA Resolution Challenges (SANKOFA - Unite Ideas) ???**
profile.honour-award.edit-form.institution???: United Nations
Development of a python-based legal-informatics software
- [03/2015] **Finalist - National Moot Court Competition ???****profile.honour-award.edit-form.institution???:** ELSA Italy
- [09/2023] **Best Paper Award ???****profile.honour-award.edit-form.institution???:** ICEGOV
Award Committee
For the paper *Aligning UN Goals and Legal Norms in a Case Weighting System: A Case Study on Environmental Crimes in Italy*

PUBLICATIONS

- [2019] **Democracy Through the Blocks: Towards the Era of Law Engineering**
- [2020]
MOATcoin: Exploring Challenges and Legal Implications of Smart Contracts Through a Gamelike DApp Experiment
- [2021]
A Dataset for Evaluating Legal Question Answering on Private International Law
- [2023]
Aligning UN Goals and Legal Norms in a Case Weighting System: A Case Study on Environmental Crimes in Italy

VOLUNTEERING

- [02/2021 – Current] **Tech expert - Develawpers**
Tech coaching and teaching coding to legal professionals
- [31/07/2016 – 30/07/2017] **Director Internal Management - ELSA Siena**
- [11/2014 – 06/2017] **Volunteer - Italian Red Cross**