

# Yuri Ihnatov

Amsterdam, Netherlands | Contact via [ihnatov.nl](http://ihnatov.nl) | [LinkedIn](#)

---

## SUMMARY

AI strategy and product leader with over a decade of experience delivering agentic AI and digital human products for Tier 1 financial institutions. Led strategic partnerships and build/buy/partner decisions across the agentic AI stack, from frontier model selection and LLM orchestration to embedded integrations (payments, CRM, platform APIs). Structured and closed AI engagements across six countries, owning delivery end to end: product roadmap, technical architecture, cross-functional team coordination, and stakeholder alignment across engineering, business, legal, and client executives. Deep hands-on fluency across agentic and data pipelines, multi-LLM orchestration, inference infrastructure, and multilingual content systems.

## EXPERIENCE

### Technical Program Manager

**Blits.ai | Amsterdam, Netherlands | 05/2025 – Present**

- Led strategic AI partnerships with Tier 1 financial institutions across the Middle East, Europe, and Turkey, owning the full lifecycle from opportunity identification through technical delivery of conversational AI and digital human products.
- Drove build/buy/partner decisions across the agentic stack: frontier model selection/eval, inference infrastructure, data pipelines, speech-to-text providers, and embedded platform API integrations connecting to clients' payment, CRM, and core banking systems.
- Structured and closed six AI partnership engagements with major banks across five countries, translating complex technical requirements into scalable partnership frameworks and repeatable delivery playbooks.
- Partnered with client executives, product, engineering, and compliance teams to align AI capabilities with business requirements, delivering vulnerability assessments and LLM risk reports that enabled go/no-go decisions.
- Architected multi-LLM orchestration systems with dedicated conversational and tool-use layers, including agentic payment flows and SQL-driven product catalog search with real-time merchant integrations.
- Provided forward-looking insight on the evolving AI landscape to inform product strategy, including dialect NLP gaps, avatar inference cost modeling, and agentic architecture trade-offs.
- Led company's evaluation workstream within the LLMs4EU consortium, defining benchmarks and methodologies for assessing LLM-based systems across European partners.

## **Team Lead**

**kimkim | Amsterdam, Netherlands | 05/2023 – 05/2025**

- Lead cross-functional teams to scale AI-driven travel-tech products across 8 destinations, generating \$4M+ annually.
- Define strategic roadmaps and OKRs, analyze results to prioritize AI product evolution.
- Spearhead integrations with OpenAI technologies; develop scoring algorithms for travel activities.
- Streamline operations via Bokun and FareHarbor API integrations, reducing manual workflows by 60%.
- Refine UX flows based on analytics from FullStory and shadow sessions to boost conversions.
- Oversee content strategy and production (500+ pieces annually) to increase engagement and leads.
- Optimize in-trip support and supplier relations, enabling a 3X increase in bookings and reducing issues by 3X.

## **Destination Development Manager**

**kimkim | Amsterdam, Netherlands | 05/2022 – 05/2023**

- Launched a full-scale travel-tech product from scratch, managing multiple product pivots within a year.
- Led development and operational frameworks for Greece and Costa Rica.
- Managed content creation to capture leads with a team of 3 editors.

## **Owner**

**Canicula.club | Remote (EU) | 05/2012 – 05/2022**

- Built a custom platform for long-duration adventure tours serving 500+ clients, driving consistent 50% annual growth over five years.
- Negotiated partnerships with hundreds of suppliers, securing beneficial terms for B2B and B2C customers.
- Implemented Google and Facebook ads, optimizing ROI through data-driven testing.

## **Lead Analyst**

**Office of the President of Ukraine | Kyiv, Ukraine | 01/2008 – 05/2012**

- Led large-scale data analysis and financial modeling (Excel, VBA, SPSS) for macroeconomic reports.
  - Developed and refined financial macroeconomic models, informing decision-makers on policy strategies.
  - Analyzed socio-economic and reform policy effectiveness, implementing change management frameworks.
-

## SKILLS

### Technical & Analytical Expertise

- Data Analytics (SQL, Looker, Power BI)
- A/B Testing & Experimentation
- Project Management (Azure DevOps, Jira, Confluence, Notion)
- UX Collaboration (Figma)
- Agile Methodologies (Scrum, Kanban)
- AI-powered Solutions (LLM, TTS and STT APIs, Prompt Engineering, LLM orchestration)
- API Integrations (Bokun, FareHarbor)
- Programming languages (Python, SQL, VBA, C)
- LangChain and RAG Systems
- Digital Human Engineering

### Product & Leadership Expertise

- Product Design and Architecture
- Product Requirements & Specifications
- Empowering Stakeholder & Team Leadership
- Operational Optimization
- SEO & Content Strategy
- Team Load Projections

### Languages

- English (Fluent)
  - Ukrainian (Native)
  - Dutch (Learning - A2)
  - Spanish (Limited Working Proficiency)
- 

## EDUCATION

### Master of Science (MS), Computer Systems Analysis

National Technical University of Ukraine "Kyiv Polytechnic Institute"  
2006 – 2007

### Bachelor of Science (BS), Mathematics and Computer Science

National Technical University of Ukraine "Kyiv Polytechnic Institute"  
2002 – 2006