

Helga Helvegen

Senior PHP Backend Engineer

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PROFILE

Backend engineer with 7+ years in software development and 6+ years of commercial PHP experience. Focused on backend architecture, APIs and integrations, high-load and data-heavy services, asynchronous processing, queues, real-time systems, legacy modernization and performance optimization. Experienced both in evolving large production systems and building products from scratch to production.

CORE TECHNOLOGIES

Backend	PHP 8+, Symfony 5/6, Laravel 11/12, AmPHP, Zend Framework 1
Data & messaging	PostgreSQL, MySQL/MariaDB, Redis, RabbitMQ, Elasticsearch
API & real-time	REST, RPC/gRPC, WebSocket, Protobuf, OAuth, third-party integrations
Engineering	Docker, Linux, Nginx, Git, Composer, PHPUnit, PHPStan, CI/CD
Frontend	Vue 3, TypeScript, JavaScript, HTML/CSS - for full-stack tasks and own products
Practices	architecture, decomposition, code review, refactoring, performance tuning, debugging, mentoring

EXPERIENCE

Wizar Tech — PHP Backend Developer

Aug 2023 — Jan 2025

- Developed a logistics platform while maintaining a Zend Framework 1 / PHP 5.6 legacy monolith and incrementally migrating it to Symfony 5.4 → 6.
- Decomposed legacy code, refactored toward modern engineering practices and performed code reviews.
- Optimized MySQL queries and business logic, addressing performance bottlenecks.
- Built backend-driven UI capabilities and evolved production functionality without disruptive rewrites.

Bringo Group Ltd. — PHP Backend Developer

Dec 2021 — Aug 2023

- Built backend services and microservices for a real-time crypto trading platform from scratch.
- Used AmPHP, PostgreSQL, Redis and RabbitMQ for asynchronous processing and background workers.
- Implemented low-latency WebSocket + Protobuf communication, real-time analytics and data processing.
- Developed administration and localization features; contributed to architecture and mentoring.

1C International — PHP Backend Developer

May 2021 — Dec 2021

- Developed REST APIs and internal services using Symfony/Bitrix, including billing and licensing-related workflows.
- Implemented external integrations, business-process automation and production support.

MIREA University — Web Developer

Jan 2021 — May 2021

- Developed and maintained an internal Bitrix24 portal, including backend functionality and Vue.js interfaces.
- Implemented integrations, automation and internal service improvements.

Freelance / Private Practice — PHP Backend Engineer

Mar 2019 — Jan 2021

- Backend development for CRM/ERP, travel and e-commerce projects: APIs, integrations, automation and maintenance.
- Built a financial-data processing pipeline that reduced operating costs by approximately \$1,000/month.
- Developed a travel module and email automation; also handled testing, technical interviews and developer training.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Music Lesson Scheduler — Laravel / Vue 3

Full-stack SaaS for teachers and students: Laravel 12, PHP 8.4, PostgreSQL, Redis, Vue 3 and TypeScript. Google OAuth and two-way Google Calendar synchronization, webhooks, background jobs, booking/cancellation rules; Protobuf contracts and a generic mapping layer between domain entities and Protobuf.

Content Parser / Aggregator

Laravel + PostgreSQL. Data collection and normalization from external sources, reverse engineering of undocumented APIs, and a resilient data-processing pipeline. Public repository and working web interface.

LANGUAGES

Russian — native · English — B2 / professional · German — B1 · Finnish — A1