

Alja Isaković

Aalyah Eesakovich (she/they)

Improving tech & education with imagination, innovation, and inclusivity.

- ✓ alja@ialja.com
- ialja.com
- Ljubljana, Slovenia (EU)
- CET (UTC/GMT +1)

in LinkedIn profile

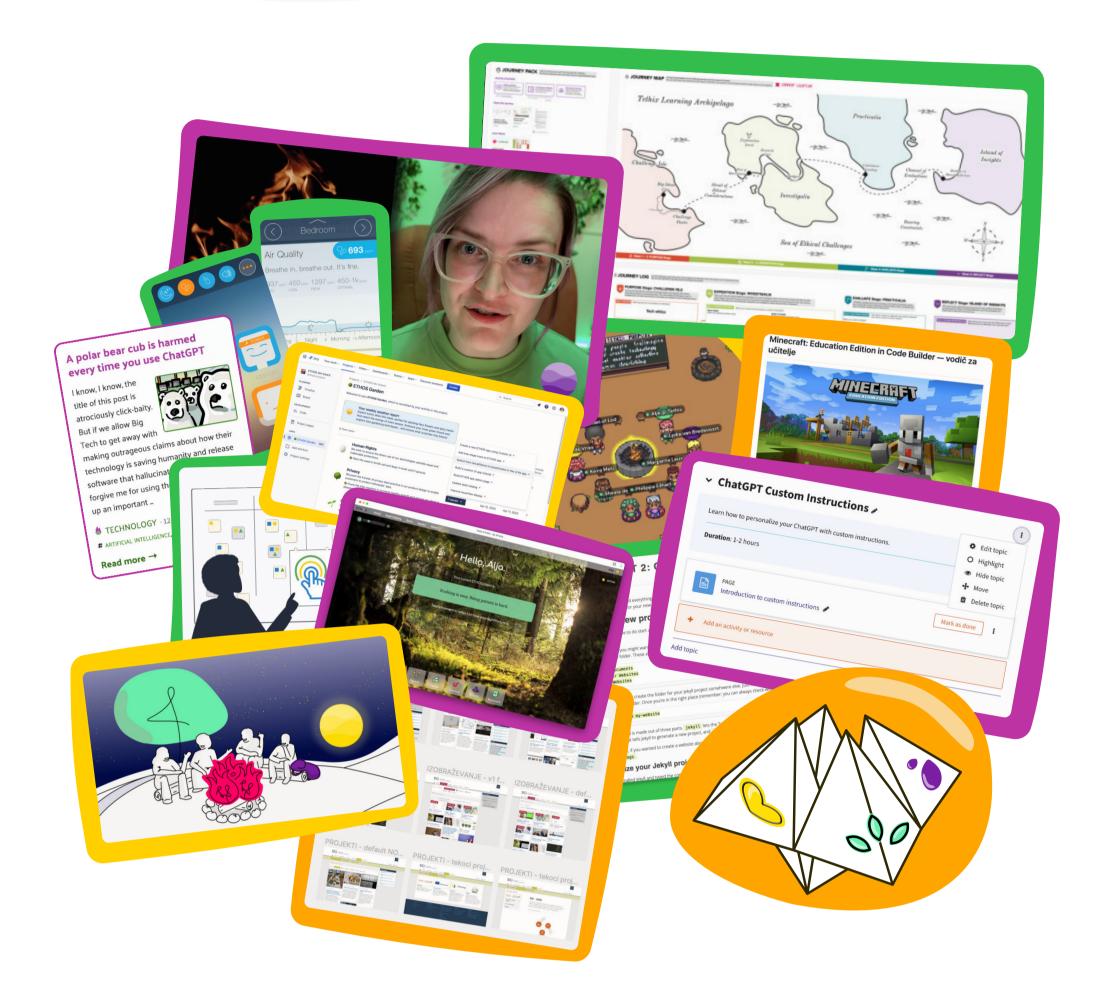
ETHOS profile

GitHub profile

Experienced full-stack product designer, manager, community builder, creator, and educator. Passionate about crafting delightful digital experiences and spaces for diverse humans, while mindful of non-human stakeholders. In the past two decades, I've helped startups, larger organisations, educational institutions – but mostly people –, improve how they build, learn, and think about digital technologies.

Recent highlights

- In my current role at <u>Tethix</u>, a social venture I cofounded in 2021, I designed and led various workshops and a unique tech ethics learning journey based on the <u>Challenge Based Learning</u> framework. I also lead the product design and development for the <u>ETHOS</u> web app, built in **Django**.
- In 2021, I launched <u>ResponsibleTech.Work</u>, an open-source project that aims to equip tech workers with practical tools for more <u>responsible product development</u>. I designed and built the website in <u>Jekyll</u>, and contributed most of the content.
- I have also been volunteering with <u>ClimateAction.tech</u> and helping with content strategy and UX, as I learn more about sustainable web development. Recently, I've been trying to educate people about the <u>environmental impacts of Al</u>.



Highlights from the past 19+ years:

- Since 2007, I worked at several **agile startups** from Web3 to consumer IoT hardware. At each startup, I had to quickly learn about new technologies, and played a lead role in improving the user experience (UX) and defining the brand voice.
- In the past 15 years, I've been regularly included in local projects related to digital transformation in public education. As part of these projects, I've improved the **UX of various EdTech software and websites**, and worked extensively with Moodle LMS.
- Locally, I helped hundreds of women learn programming and start their careers in tech by organising free workshops and other advocacy work. I also designed a beginner-friendly one-day web development workshop.
- As the founder of Europe Code Week, I collaborated with ambassadors throughout Europe, while coordinating the project with the European Commission and industry partners. The movement I started and initially led now reaches millions of people in over 80 countries each year and counts Apple, Google and others among its key supporters.
- During my one-year PhD side quest (2016/2017, not completed), I taught **Computer Science** students **programming** and created a summer coding program for kids in Minecraft that is still being taught.
- I hold a bachelor's degree in Media Communications (completed in 2007), with the option Interactive Graphic Communication.

I learn fast, think deeply, and adapt to context

- Working in **startups** taught me how to learn fast and innovate on a budget.
- I care more about delivering a **good experience** for whoever it is that I am
 designing for rather than specific tools,
 frameworks, or flavours of agile although I
 quickly adapt to all of the above.
- I think in systems, but I also excel at planning, managing, and delivering tangible value to any project I get involved in.
- I believe **details matter within constraints**, and in working smarter rather than harder.

I am fluent in tools & languages of the web

- I regularly use HTML/CSS/JavaScript in my work and personal projects, and have built several web apps and websites from scratch using Django and Jekyll.
- I usually think & design in **Figma** and **Mural**, collaborate through **Slack**, **git**, and other modern collaborative tools.
- Empathy, kindness, generosity & curiosity are the languages I try to nurture in my everyday work and life.
- I am proficient in **English** (near-native), **Slovenian** (native), and **Italian** (elementary).

I collaborate well with diverse people remotely

- In previous roles, I managed and collaborated with developers, designers, copywriters, coordinated with lawyers, and contributed to business strategy.
- I easily switch between the lingoes of **business, design, engineering, academia**, and other fields.
- I work well **independently** and as part of **remote teams** in different roles.
- I always seek to include **diverse voices** and aim to accommodate cultural and other spectrums of human diversity.

