

## Lidia Stepieńska-Ustasiak, Ph.D.



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*Sociologist | Digital Policy Expert | WSIS 2025 High-Level Track Facilitator*

Dr. Lidia Stepieńska-Ustasiak is a sociologist and expert in public policy and digital transformation, with over 15 years of professional experience in the telecommunications and information and communication technology (ICT) sectors (Orange, T-Mobile, Liberty Global). She is Co-founder of the Polistratos Institute, a non-governmental organization dedicated to the study of technology's societal impacts and the promotion of strategic dialogue in the digital era. She currently serves at Billennium, a leading technology company in Poland, while also contributing actively to the work of the National Chamber of Commerce for Electronics and Telecommunications (KIGETT) in the areas of digital policy and international cooperation.

Dr. Stepieńska-Ustasiak represents the European region in the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI) at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), providing expert advice on human and institutional capacity development in the digital domain. She previously served as Chair of the GCBI and, in 2019, as Chair of the Steering Committee of the ITU Centres of Excellence, a global network facilitating ICT training and knowledge exchange.

In 2025, Dr. Stepieńska-Ustasiak has been appointed High-Level Track Facilitator at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2025, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) — a leading United Nations platform for multistakeholder dialogue on leveraging ICTs for sustainable development.

Earlier in her career, as Deputy Director in the Department of Foreign Affairs at Poland's Office of Electronic Communications (UKE), she led both the International Organizations Unit and the Social and Economic Cooperation Unit. In this capacity, she was responsible for managing the Office's engagement with SMEs, startups, chambers of commerce, public administration, and academia, both domestically and internationally.

She has represented Poland at numerous high-level international meetings, including the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17), ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18), Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-18), and multiple editions of the WSIS Forum (2017–2020). She has also overseen the organization of regional ITU meetings fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration within the framework of Regional Initiatives.

Dr. Stepieńska-Ustasiak holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Warsaw, where her research addressed the social impacts of technology, digital competencies, and ICT-driven capacity development. She also holds M.A. degrees in Social Sciences from both the University of Warsaw and the University of Lancaster (United Kingdom). As a researcher, author, lecturer, and public speaker, she is committed to advancing the interface between policy, technology, and society.