

A portrait of Magdalena Gaj, a woman with curly brown hair, wearing a dark purple top with a decorative brooch. The background is a solid blue color.

MAGDALENA GAJ
SM@RT WORLD



Sm@rt world

To serve the ITU members is the main role of the organization which was established to assist the Member States in those areas that require coordination and cooperation between countries. Using the collective experience and knowledge of ITU Member States it is essential to support developing countries in order to put them on a fast track to growth and to eliminate differences in access to ICT services. Maximizing the benefits for Member States is the best guarantee of strengthening the ITU international position.

I am standing as a candidate for the ITU Deputy Secretary General because I am convinced that I can serve the ITU members well: listen to their needs, contribute to more efficient achievement of the organization's objectives, give necessary support to its members and coordinate key ITU activities at international level, within the framework of the mandate granted by the Member States. I believe that as the first woman holding such a high-level position in the organization, I will offer fresh insight and new perspective on major challenges faced by the ITU.

Also, I feel that it is very important to establish relations and develop good standards of communication with other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental agencies and academic world. Implementing this idea is also an inherent part of the multistakeholderism trend.

Only acting together we are able to put into practice the idea of sm@rt world.

MAGDALENA GAJ

President of UKE 2013 Poland,
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MAGDALENA

GAJ

” I SUPPORT THE INITIATIVES AIMED AT CREATION OF EQUAL CHANCES FOR BOTH WOMEN AND MEN IN OUR TECHNICAL WORLD. THE SUCCESS IS POSSIBLE, INDEPENDENTLY OF THE GENDER. I AM A REAL EXAMPLE. ”

M.Gaj – WSIS +10, Geneva 2012

career

MAGDALENA GAJ HAS BEEN WORKING IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FOR OVER 12 YEARS. SHE HAS A LONG EXPERIENCE OF HOLDING THE HIGHEST STATE POSTS. LINKED TO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR FROM THE BEGINNING, SHE HAS GRADUALLY CLIMBED THE CAREER LADDER - STARTING WITH THE JOB OF A LAWYER AT UKE UP TO THE POST OF THE PRESIDENT OF UKE WHICH SHE HAS BEEN HOLDING SINCE EARLY 2012.

SHE HAS FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

HER NEGOTIATION SKILLS, AS WELL AS THE ABILITY TO FORM ALLIANCES AND REACH COMPROMISES WERE CRUCIAL FOR THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF MANY BENEFICIAL CHANGES FOR POLES IN THE AREA OF INFORMATION SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT AND DIGITISATION OF THE COUNTRY, THAT HAS BECOME A EUROPEAN LEADER IN TERMS OF MOBILE INTERNET.

DURING HER WORK MAGDALENA GAJ HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS A TALENTED MANAGER CAPABLE OF RECONCILING THE INTERESTS OF CONSUMERS, THE GOVERNMENT AND OPERATORS. THANKS TO HER EFFORTS - DESPITE DIFFICULT MACROECONOMIC STANDING - POLAND REVERSED DECLINING TRENDS IN INVESTMENT IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE.

__Since the beginning of 2012 she has been the President of the Polish Regulatory Authority (Office of Electronic Communications – UKE);

__From 2009 to 2012 Magdalena Gaj was the Undersecretary of State responsible for the Polish telecom market in the Ministry of Infrastructure and later in the Ministry of Administration and Digitization;

__From 2005 to 2009 she worked as the Director of the Legal Department in UKE and provided legal services to the President of UKE with respect to telecommunications, postal, administrative, civil and European Union law. She was actively involved in drafting decisions taken by the Regulator;

__From 2001 to 2005 Ms. Gaj served as a legal advisor in the Polish Regulatory Authority where she represented the Regulator in court cases on regulatory issues;

__From 1998 to 2001 she worked in the private law firm where she was responsible for the telecommunications sector.

” IN TODAY’S WORLD BOTH THE REGULATOR AND OPERATORS MUST COOPERATE. WE LIVE IN ONE ECOSYSTEM. BOTH THE REGULATOR AND OPERATORS MUST UNDERSTAND THIS SITUATION. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED MUST ENSURE A REASONABLE RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR ENTREPRENEURS.”

M. Gaj – European Commission 2012.

” I BELIEVE THAT OUR PROFESSIONAL MISSION IS TO ENSURE THAT THE TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES AND, IN PARTICULAR, ACCESS TO THE INTERNET, SHOULD BECOME COMMONLY AVAILABLE.”

M. Gaj – opening speech at GSR 2013 Poland

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

__Both in the Ministry and in the Regulatory Authority, she has dealt with investment barriers in the telecommunications sector. Her work has led to the preparation and passing of an Act on supporting the development of telecommunications networks and services that :

__facilitated investment in the telecommunications infrastructure by the companies and local governments;

__enhanced the process of spending EU funds designed for the extension of the Internet network;

__Ms. Gaj was the key leader in the digitization process in Poland. Thanks to her commitment and determination the switch-over process was carried out smoothly and efficiently. She prepared and implemented the national strategy in this sector, prepared legal bills, information campaigns, and led technical supervision,

__She was responsible for the preparation and adoption of amendments to the Polish

law that brought it in compliance with the European Union law;

__She was in charge of the work of the Council of the European Union in the field of telecommunications during the Polish Presidency in 2011.

__Ms. Gaj has enhanced the Polish involvement in the ITU’s activities, including the hosting in Poland of the Global Symposium for Regulators in 2013 with great organizational success. The event attracted almost 700 participants from 130 countries.

IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE

__Author of the collaboration programme between Warsaw University of Technology, Wrocław University of Technology and Military University of Technology - the best Polish technical universities that support young talents.

__Co-organizer, member of the steering committee of interdisciplinary studies

“International Master’s Degree in multimedia – technology, design, management”

__Expert, co-organizer of a multiannual research programme "Security on the Internet" and a series of annual scientific conferences organized by the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw (UKSW) - one of the Polish leading universities in terms of legal faculties.

__Supervising and programming activities with respect to the National Institute of Telecommunications - state research institution acting as a telecommunications centre of excellence.

__Defining / Initiating research projects within the framework of the National Centre for Research and Development in the area of telecommunications, development of network infrastructure, communications security, emergency numbers, digital dividend, innovative solutions in radio communications.

Accomplishment

Awards

MAGDALENA GAJ HAS WON NUMEROUS PRIZES AWARDED BY PRESTIGIOUS DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES.

MAGDALENA GAJ IS

__ the author of a number of important activities in the ICT sector in Poland, with the aim of strengthening digital inclusion and promoting women's participation in the sector:

__ national project of "Digital Light-keepers" – thousands of special teachers of the Internet whose task is to fight digital exclusion (capacity building), especially among people 50+;

__ "Girls in ICT" project - promoting women in jobs in the ICT sector in Poland by close cooperation with technical universities and ICT companies;

__ "Digital School" project - dedicated to primary schools for the development of students' and teachers' ICT skills (the project covered more than 400 primary schools in Poland).

__ **STATE DISTINCTION GRANTED BY THE GOVERNMENT - "PERSON OF MERIT IN COMMUNICATIONS" MEDAL - FOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS / TELECOMMUNICATIONS / TV IN POLAND.**

__ **MAN OF 2012 AND CRYSTAL ANTENNA OF THE MEDIA WORLD AWARDED DURING THE 12TH SYMPOSIUM OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA WORLD.**

__ **GOLDEN CYBORG FOR IT LEADERS.**

__ **INFOSTAT 2012 FOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF THE FIRST RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY PROGRAMME IN EUROPE.**

__ **MEDAL FOR EFFORTS IN FAVOUR OF CONSUMER RIGHTS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONSUMER RIGHTS.**

__ **GIRLS IN ICT - ITU PRIZE AWARDED DURING THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY IN GENEVA IN 2012.**

__ **ITU CERTIFICATE FOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WSIS FUND IN TRUST 2012. HONORARY DIPLOMA OF INTERSPUTNIK.**

__ **DISTINCTION OF THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF ELECTRONIC AND TELECOMMUNICATION INDUSTRY (KIGEIT) FOR LONG-LASTING COOPERATION AND EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF COMPETITION RULES IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS.**

”TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORKS

ARE THE BLOODSTREAM OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMY. NONE OF US CAN IMAGINE TODAY'S WORK AND DAILY LIFE WITHOUT A TELEPHONE, COMPUTER OR THE INTERNET ACCESS. A MAN HAS BECOME A "HOMO SMARTPHONUS" AND IS MORE AND MORE DEPENDENT ON MOBILE DEVICES.”

M. Gaj – National Broadband Forum 2013 Poland

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THE
CANDIDATE
FOR THE ITU DEPUTY
SECRETARY GENERAL