

Päivi Ekdahl

**Development Director, Regional Council of Lapland Institute for Transport Studies,
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Päivi Ekdahl is development director at the Regional Council of Lapland since October 2013. Her main duties currently include responsibility on the programme-based regional development in Lapland, overall responsibility on the implementation of regional EU programmes as intermediate body for the structural funds (ERDF), national responsibility on the implementation of Interreg V A North – programme, national information point of Northern Periphery and the Arctic –programme and overall responsibility as the Joint Managing Authority of Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 programme.

As development director she is actively involved in implementation and planning of future development of Lapland's Smart Specialisation Strategy (Lapland's Arctic Specialisation Programme) and on development of synergy between national and international funding programmes, especially those that are referred to as "Arctic Programmes".

Her daily work has an international aspect and responsibilities and she is actively participating to the network within the Northern Sparsely Populated Area (NSPA) and other networks within regional development and cohesion policy.

Ms Ekdahl has Master of Education from the University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland, pedagogical qualification from the Oulu University of Applied Sciences (OAMK), Finland and Vocational examination on management from Johtamistaidon opisto (School of Management) – Finland's leading management and leadership development school. Recently she has also taken studies on leadership at the University of Lapland.