

**PROFESSOR MADIS HABAKUK**  
**(28.12.1938–02.09.2016)**  
**IN MEMORIAM**

Madis Habakuk was born on the 28th of December 1938 at Avinurme in the Estonian district of Virumaa. His parents were Jaan and Armilda Habakuk. His education started at Avinurme 8-year school that he finished in 1953. The next stage of his education was graduating from the Tallinn Technical School of Mining (Tallinna Mäetehnikum) in 1958 as an underground coal mine technician. Madis Habakuk's further educational path continued at the Tallinn University of Technology (TTÜ) that was called the Tallinn Polytechnic Institute (TPI) until 1989. He graduated from the specialization of engineering economics and organisation in 1966. After graduation he worked in the production enterprise Norma as a department head. Madis Habakuk's academic career started in 1968 at the Department of Industry Planning and Management that had just been founded. He started as an assistant and after completing his doctoral studies continued as a senior lecturer and later as an assistant professor. His scientific research focused on managerial decision-making. That was reflected both in his candidate and doctoral theses. He received a scientific degree of the Candidate of Economic Sciences in 1971 for successfully defending the dissertation "Problems of Formalization of Individual and Group Decisions" (research supervisor Professor Raoul Üksvärav). Madis Habakuk was one of few Estonian management researchers who managed to reach the level of Doctor of Economic Sciences in the Soviet two-tier research degree system (Candidate of Sciences – Doctor of Sciences). The topic of the doctoral thesis defended in 1980 was "Objective-driven Approach to Studying the Decision-making Process in Economic Organizations". The theoretical foundations of the research by Madis Habakuk were related to the US researcher Herbert Simon (a later Nobelist) and James March. Madis Habakuk published several monographs and research papers on decision making.

In addition to contributing to the decision-making theory, Madis Habakuk had an extensive role in developing methods for teaching decision making and enhancing broader management competencies in practice. He was the first in Estonia to introduce case studies and simulation-based methods for teaching managerial decision making. In the context of the 1970s it was a really innovative step forward and received a warm welcome from students and management practitioners.

From 1978 to 1988 Madis Habakuk was Chair of the Management Department at the Estonian Management Institute (EMI). During 1981–1985 he concurrently worked as an expert of the International Labour Office (ILO). In 1981 he was awarded the title of professor. Madis Habakuk was able to create good co-operation with these colleagues from Moscow who tried to change the stagnated Soviet society. In 1983 Madis Habakuk received the Silver Award of the Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy of the Soviet Union.

In 1988 Professor Madis Habakuk founded the first private higher education institution in Estonia – the Estonian Higher Commercial School in co-operation with Professor Marshall Fitzgerald (USA) and the Canadian Estonian Ilmar Martens. Since 2002 the name of this university has been Estonian Business School (EBS). The creation and

continuous development of EBS should be considered Madis Habakuk's main life mission. Through EBS he has had a strong impact on the higher education landscape, the economic and entrepreneurship education in Estonia. During the years 1988–2008 he managed this university at first in the role of its President and later as Rector. Aside six public universities EBS is the only private university in Estonia. Eduniversal global ranking rates EBS among the 300 best business schools. EBS is the only Estonian university that has a branch outside Estonia – EBS Helsinki that was founded in 2011.

Madis Habakuk belongs to the minority of Estonian economic researchers who have attained impressive results also in the real-life entrepreneurship. The value of enterprises owned by Madis Habakuk and his family was nearly 25 million € in 2016. Madis Habakuk was one of the founders of the Estonian Family Firm Association in 2014.

In 2013 Madis Habakuk received the annual Estonian Entrepreneur's Life Work Award from Ernst & Young and in 2014 President of Estonia awarded him with the White Star III Class Order of Honour for developing Estonian education.

Former students and long-term colleagues of Madis Habakuk

Peeter Kross and Tiit Elenurm