

Marko Seppä

Biographical Information

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Starting in 1986, parallel to finalizing business studies in Finland and the US, Marko Seppä was apprenticed venture capitalist by the founders of **Panostaja Plc**, one of Finland's oldest private equity firms. In 1991, at age 26, he launched Panostaja's pioneering Russia investment arm, **Finnish Venture Capital FVC Oy**, as Founding Managing Director. By 2000, he had led FVC thru management-buy-out, incorporation in Luxembourg, expansion to Baltic markets, international fund raising, creation of **AO Kareltrans** in Russia, privatization of **AS Mainor** in Estonia, ranking by **EBRD** as a top-tier cross-border VC firm and, finally, exit mode and trade sale to **Thominvest Group**.

In 2000, Marko Seppä defended his PhD on **Strategy Logic of the Venture Capitalist** in front of Professor Tyzoon Tyebjee of SCU at University of Jyväskylä (JYU). In 2001-2006, he co-founded/led **e-Business Research Center eBRC** as a joint venture of TUT and UTA for eTampere, a local pilot of eEurope; pooled 17M€ in R&D funding, launched major annual events, and created **V2C paradigm**. In 2007-2011, he served JYU as Invited Professor of Growth Venture Creation. He initiated and co-founded **Global Venture Lab Network**; coined **Art of Business Creation** as a new domain to enable universities to produce masters of business creation; developed the rewarded Kasvun Kiitorata (e. **Runway to Growth**) method; and received, from industry, the **Entrepreneurial Act of The Year in Higher Education Award**. Besides Live Case based teaching merits, his academic portfolio comprises 104 publications and 47 international presentations.

Since 2011, Marko Seppä has served as **Co-Founder & Chairman/CEO** of **Global Enabler or "Ge"** – the globally co-owned community, platform and factory to “help good people build great companies”. The pilot merits of Ge include launch of **Kasvu Open**, Finland's #1 growth company competition; investment-readiness of Kasvu Open winner **Naava**, the smart indoor air purifier; and enabling of **Vietnam-Finland Innovation Partnership Program IPP** to create a portfolio of 18 startups, train 152 E&I trainers from over 40 universities and launch a Vietnam market access program. Global Enabler is one of two portfolio firms of **Venture Capital Corporation VCC Oy** (e. 1989), through which Marko Seppä has made, over time, 9 investments and served 60+ advisory clients for assignments based in Asia, America & Europe. He has served the EU as independent expert since 2002, e.g., advised the **European Institute of Innovation and Technology EIT** in its launch stages; evaluated funding proposals in excess of 1BEUR, including 200+ business plans for the **SME Instrument Program**; and monitored over 30 EU funded projects. He is a Founding Jury Member of the **European Innovation Council (EIC)** pilot.

Today, Marko Seppä is 54, lives in Tampere region, Finland, is married and has 2 grown-up children. He speaks **English, Finnish, German** and **Swedish**, loves alpine skiing, world history and travelling, has visited 52 countries and worked in Belgium, Estonia, Finland, India, Russia, Sweden, USA & Vietnam. He holds a **MSc in Econ** from University of Tampere (UTA) and a **PhD in Corporate Strategy** from JYU. In 1989, he completed **International Business Executive Institute** at Mississippi State University. In 1990-1991, he completed the first half of his PhD program at University of Oregon as Visiting Scholar, while designed FVC and built industry network in Silicon Valley. In 1991, he completed the **17th Venture Capital Institute** of NASBIC and NVCA.