



HELLO MR. OR MS. MANAGER, DID YOU ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAYS?

Summertime is over and most of us are again back in business and in the office, respectively, but maybe this column will refresh your memories of your summer holidays a little bit...

Inspired by the clear water under the blue sky on the beach of Saplnara on Mljet, for me the most beautiful island in Croatia, the following question came to my mind: **do we managers really remove all the stress and tension during our holidays?**

I think that most of us are dreaming about a time-out like Robinson Crusoe, and to leave everything behind us that is somehow related to business – at least for a certain period of time – but in most cases, or let's say in a "normal" life, this is unfortunately not possible...

And although we are now back in business and stepping into the last period of this year, here are my ideas for all of you managers who deal with a lot of hectic activities and stress throughout the year.

Relax and do something totally different! Do you know Pero in Saplnara on Mljet? I think he doesn't even have a surname, but that's not necessary, because everybody there knows him. He owns a small restaurant, and when you come there he presents you with the fish he caught that day ... and then he prepares *your fish just for you* on the grill.

Some of his friends are usually sitting around and you can enjoy a wonderful evening eating fresh fish, drinking red wine and singing Dalmatian songs with the guys on the terrace. And the view of the bay of Saplnara, where the moon is reflected in the shimmering water leaves you with an unforgettable impression.

But in case you would really like to think about business, just ask yourself why you can't create such an atmosphere in your business (if you can do it or in case you have already done it: congratulations!). Of course, our offices are not usually located directly on the beach, but let's think about the friendly and relaxing atmosphere. Wouldn't we achieve better results, rather than constantly being under pressure?

Relax and enjoy being a guest! Please don't think that I've been engaged by a tourist agency, but it's worthwhile to present to you an absolutely wonderful host: the Konoba Turan on the island of Hvar.

One evening we were walking through Jelsa, a tiny village on the island of Hvar, when we suddenly read on a table "Konoba Turan". So we walked in one of a few small alleys and after several tries succeeded in finding something amazing: a tiny, lovely restaurant with approximately five tables under some trees, waiters proposing individual compositions of Dalmatian food and the cook, already waiting for the orders in front of an open fireplace to prepare fish and meat.

No matter how much time you spend in this beautiful environment, you feel like a king in his kingdom, and for a while you can really forget about your business.



Relax and say goodbye to your calendar and mobile phone! The first few days of our holidays we spent on the island of Hvar, and we (my wife and I) were full of ideas for different activities: jogging in the morning, reading books and magazines, shopping etc. On the island of Korčula it was already a little bit better and we started enjoying the beautiful nature even more. And here in Mljet we were asking ourselves in the evening: “What did we do the whole day?” And the answer was twofold: “nothing”, according to our western understanding of time, and “we enjoyed the whole day under the sun”, according to people and their nature here in Dalmatia.

It was the first time that we even didn't set the alarm clock for the next morning. And all at once I didn't miss the ringing bell anymore...

So, say goodbye to your alarm clock, you don't need it on holidays, except if you have to take an early plane or ferry boat or something of that nature. Wake up with the sun or with your kids' activities, but please don't think you will miss anything.

What did I get out of these experiences? A lot of fresh energy and the understanding that things sometimes also work without the constant pressure of time!

Relax and create new ideas for your business! This year I read “The Tipping Point” by Malcolm Gladwell, and the question for me was “how can I initiate the tipping point for my business?”

I had already read this book some years ago, but this time it was with a purpose, and with the difference that I enjoyed it very much: I stopped every few pages, waited until that what I had just read really sunk in, compared it to my way of doing business, and discussed it from time to time with my wife...

The result was a number of excellent ideas, which I'll implement in autumn.

So, dear managers, if you didn't have the opportunity to enjoy and relax during your holidays like I did, **don't worry, next summer will definitely come.**