

Finns – Low on Efficiency, High on Maintenance?

The case for the Prosecution: Finns are far too often away from work! They are always on some sort of **leave** or another – **annual leave, parental leave, sick leave, job alternation leave, study leave!** In fact, they hardly seem to have the time to **drop by** the workplace to **schedule** their **absences** ... **Productivity** and **cost-efficiency** must suffer indeed.

Defense: Actually, the Finnish **work ethic** is the envy of many a nation, and rightly so. Finland consistently scores high on productivity, cost-efficiency and **performance**. This fall, Finland came second only to Switzerland in the World Economic Forum's **Global Competitive Index rankings**. Furthermore, repeated studies have shown that Finland is one of the least **corrupt** countries in the world.

Prosecution: Statistics can prove anything, you know.

Defense: True, numbers are only numbers but in this case the numbers speak the truth. Finns are highly productive and efficient. And here are some reasons: job alternation leave, **justified** sick leave, parental leave, **state-subsidized day-care centers**, an **all-encompassing** educational system, a strong **judicial system**, good **public institutions**... In short: the Finnish **welfare state**. Add a strong focus on technology and innovation to this and you have the **key ingredients** behind the Finnish success story.

Prosecution: Still, four weeks of summer **vacation!** Isn't it overdoing it just a bit?

Defense: I see your point, but studies show that vacations can **stave off** burnout. Rested employees are much more productive than their **over-worked counterparts**, both **in the short and long run**. What's more, vacations and leaves open up **vacancies** for those who wish to **get their foot in the door**. In fact, some argue that if we want to further improve our productivity and **competitive edge**, we should **consider** a fifth week of summer vacation.

Juror in the back row: Hmm, **relocating** to Finland is starting to sound tempting...

Glossary

absence	poissaolo
all-encompassing	kaikenkattava
annual leave	vuosiloma
competitive edge	kilpailukyky
consider	harkita
corrupt	korruptoitunut
cost-efficiency	kustannustehokkuus
counterpart	vastapuoli
day-care center	päiväkoti
Defense	puolustus
drop by	pistäytyä
efficiency	tehokkuus
get one's foot in the door	saada jalka ovenrakoon
Global Competitive Index	globaali kilpailukykyindeksi
in the short/long run	lyhyellä/pitkällä aikavälillä
job alternation leave	vuorotteluvapaa
judicial system	oikeuslaitos
justified	oikeutettu
key ingredient	avaintekijä
leave	loma, vapaa
over-worked	ylityöllistetty
parental leave	vanhempainvapaa
performance	suoritus(kyky)
productivity	tuottavuus
Prosecution	tässä: syyttäjä
public institution	julkinen laitos
ranking	luokitus, sijoitus
relocate	siirtyä toiseen paikkaan (asumaan/työskentelemään)
schedule	aikatauluttaa
sick leave	sairausloma
state-subsidized	valtion tukema
statistics	tilasto
stave off	ajaa pois, karkottaa, estää
study leave	opintovapaa
vacancy	vapaa paikka
vacation	loma (AmE)
welfare state	hyvinvointivaltio
work ethic	työmoraali