

ESCAPE ROOM INTRODUCTION “FROM CHAINS TO BRIDGES”

This is the narrative of the escape room. It has to be read and handed to the participants before starting.

NARRATIVE

You are a group of journalism students living and studying in Paris. But you aren't simple students: you have a purpose that goes far beyond lectures and exams. You're also activists, members of an international non-governmental organization that fights against environmental abuse and human rights violations around the world.

Why are you part of this organisation? You want to uncover the truth where others turn a blind eye. You want to raise awareness about injustice and demand accountability from those in power. Recently, you saw in social media something that has caught your attention: A well-known European coffee chain—present in nearly every city—has launched a new campaign:

“Be green, drink green”

They promote themselves as eco-warriors, offering products that are vegan, carbon neutral, and planet-friendly. Their ads are everywhere: lush green leaves, smiling farmers, and promises of ethical sourcing. It sounds perfect... maybe too perfect. Then, the scandal hit: Just a few days ago, a customer in Rome fell seriously ill after drinking one of their drinks. The cause? A bacterium that only lives in animals.

The company was quick to respond: *“Impossible. Our products are 100% vegan. This is just an isolated case.”*

But something doesn't add up. As young investigative journalists, your instincts tell you there's more to the story. You begin to wonder: Are their products really vegan? Is their supply chain as ethical as they claim? Could this be a case of greenwashing?

Your team decides to act.

With your activist network, your journalistic skills, and your sense of justice, you begin your investigation. Sadly, your economical situation is not the best, so you can only start your investigation in Paris, where you live. Luckily, the headquarters of the company are located there! But if you would like to investigate something else in another part of the world, you would need to make a contact there who will be up to help you.

But beware: If you don't finish your investigation on time, I'm sure that their company will manage to hide their scandals. That's why this is a race against the clock.

RULES

- You have just 60 minutes: If you don't gather solid, physical evidence in time, the company will transfer its assets to a tax haven making the truth vanish forever.
- Don't interact with any station (read papers, open folders, talk to characters) until you have found the name of your contact for that country. If you try to enter without a contact, the station will remain locked to you.

HINT

- This is an investigation both physical and online. You will have to interact physically in the room, but as you progress in your investigation, you must compile the information you discover through testimonies and evidence. To do so, you must access a form via this QR code. As you correctly enter the information from your investigation, you will be able to move forward.

