EU4BLUE / COOPERATIVE ESCAPE GAME

THE LAST FESTIVAL

HOST GUIDE

One river.
Five evidence files.
One hour to change the plan.

Trace the litter. Challenge the accusation.
Unlock a response before the gates open.

AGES 15+ / 3–5 PLAYERS / 60 MIN / B2-C1

PRINT AT 100% • A4 • SINGLE-SIDED

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Set the stage

FACILITATOR ONLY / A COMPLETE TABLETOP GAME

One print-and-play escape game for teams of 3–5, ages 15+. Allow 5 minutes to brief, 45 minutes to play and 10 minutes to discuss. All incidents, names and records are fictional.

WHAT THE THREE DOCUMENTS CONTAIN

MASTER: this guide plus the complete player material.
HOST: setup, envelope labels, hints, solutions and ending.
PLAYERS: briefing, ledger and five evidence files; no solutions.

Give at start	Keep in envelopes
P01 briefing + P02 ledger	File 01: P03 drainage map
Host retains H01–H06	File 02: P04 incident cards
Cut P04, P06 and P07	File 03: P05 delivery register
Keep every card set together	File 04: P06 action cards
No real locks required	File 05: P07 crew passes + job sheet

Prepare
Print at actual size / 100%, A4, single-sided. Use five envelopes per team or five separate paper bundles. Cut along dashed OUTER card borders, keeping all card content. Optional heavier paper: 160–200 gsm. H02 provides labels; H03 provides cut-out hints.

Facilitate
Release one file after the team explains its accepted code. Allow spoken or written reasoning and hints without penalty. Never lock a door or hide clues in real equipment. No outdoor activity or real waste handling is required. Pause the timer for access needs.

Five files to release

HOST MATERIAL / CUT LABELS / PLACE ON ENVELOPES

01 DRAINAGE MAP

THE LAST FESTIVAL / B2-C1 / P03

OPEN ONLY WHEN THE HOST RELEASES THIS FILE

02 INCIDENT TIMELINE

THE LAST FESTIVAL / B2-C1 / P04

OPEN ONLY WHEN THE HOST RELEASES THIS FILE

03 DELIVERY REGISTER

THE LAST FESTIVAL / B2-C1 / P05

OPEN ONLY WHEN THE HOST RELEASES THIS FILE

04 PREVENTION OPTIONS

THE LAST FESTIVAL / B2-C1 / P06

OPEN ONLY WHEN THE HOST RELEASES THIS FILE

05 CREW ROTA

THE LAST FESTIVAL / B2-C1 / P07

OPEN ONLY WHEN THE HOST RELEASES THIS FILE

For P07, cut out the three passes and retain the top job sheet. Keep H05, the ending, hidden until the final lock and explanations are accepted.

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A nudge not a spoiler

HOST ONLY / OFFER HINT 1 BEFORE HINT 2 / NO PENALTY

FILE 01 / HINT 1

Start at the named area, not at the river.

FILE 01 / HINT 2

Stay on the same line at crossings. Read outlets in the requested area order.

FILE 02 / HINT 1

Separate direct observation from accusation.

FILE 02 / HINT 2

Keep outdoor loose-waste reports before 08:20. Put those reports in time order.

FILE 03 / HINT 1

One identifier alone is not enough.

FILE 03 / HINT 2

Check batch AND seal. Near-matching deliveries are distractors.

FILE 04 / HINT 1

Fix the failure where waste first escapes.

FILE 04 / HINT 2

Cleanup alone leaves an open bin; an “eco” label does not contain loose ties.

FILE 05 / HINT 1

Start with the job needing authorisation.

FILE 05 / HINT 2

After assigning market, check who can be present for the 08:40 camp start.

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The complete solution

HOST ONLY / ACCEPT THE CODE AND A SOUND EXPLANATION

01 / 472 / KEEP 7

Food court → outlet 4; market → 7; camp → 2. Separate lines cross but do not join. The schematic gives possible connections, not proof of an individual item’s journey.

02 / 315 / KEEP 1

Cards 3 (07:40), 1 (07:50), 5 (08:05) are qualifying outdoor waste reports before 08:20. Storage has no loose waste; the photo is the endpoint. A reported 08:25 arrival cannot explain the earlier photo. This does not prove everything about Luca’s conduct.

03 / 628 / KEEP 2

C17 + Wave → 6. W24 + Leaf → 2. T08 + Star → 8. Other rows match only part of the pair. Delivery traceability does not identify an individual offender.

04 / 194 / KEEP 9

Cups → 1; wrappers → 9; ties → 4. All prevent further loss at source. Action 6 leaves the source unchanged; 2 obstructs drainage; 8 changes only a label. Existing bank litter still requires appropriate cleanup.

05 / 853 / KEEP 5

Bo must take market. Ari arrives too late for camp, so Cy takes camp and Ari food court. In food court / market / camp order, passes are 8 / 5 / 3.

FINAL / 71295

Middle digits in file order: 7, 1, 2, 9, 5. Require a justified response as well as the code; then give H05 to the team. Do not require identical wording.

The response is unlocked

FINAL REVEAL / GIVE TO THE TEAM ONLY AFTER THE FINAL LOCK

MISSION COMPLETE

You found three failures, not one proven villain.

The cup return overflowed, a wrapper bin had no lid and packing scraps were left loose. The online accusation went beyond the evidence. Your team has organised a response at each source.

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR / APPROVE THE PREVENTION ROTA

FOOD COURT / ARI / 08:50
MARKET / BO / 09:00
CAMP / CY / 08:40

The trained site crew assesses the riverbank. The student team stays away from water and hazardous waste.

The code unlocks the response plan. It does not certify a safe site or clean river. In the story, the director checks the prevention measures and the site crew’s report before deciding whether to open.

Before the music starts
Create a two-sentence festival announcement. Explain one practical change visitors can use and correct the blame story without repeating an unsupported accusation.

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Run it for your group

HOST NOTES / LANGUAGE / DISCUSSION / REUSE

Language edition: B2-C1
Support clear justifications that link each decision to evidence. Invite learners to explain why a tempting alternative fails.

ACCESS WITHOUT LOWERING THE MISSION

Let players read, trace, organise cards, dictate or write. No public performance is required. Increase time, enlarge print or read text aloud when useful. Assess reasoning and communication, not speed or confidence.

Discuss after the reveal
1. What did the evidence establish, and what remained uncertain?
2. Why does prevention need to accompany cleanup?
3. Which part of a real incident would require further investigation?

The game's labels and records make the case deliberately solvable. Real pollution sources are often much harder to establish. The game has been checked for code consistency and layout; classroom timing should be adjusted to the group.

Sources and reuse
Original fictional plot, artwork, cards, records and puzzle codes. Free educational use and adaptation; not for resale. Existing EU4Blue and funding-logo rights remain unchanged. No real festival or person is represented.

[1] NOAA Marine Debris Program. Land-based Marine Debris.
https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/where-does-marine-debris-come/land-based-marine-debris

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