



ESCAPE BOX



TOOLKIT



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INTRODUCTION

Dear youth worker, educator and colleague!

This Toolbox is a practical guide explaining step by step how to build your own escape room on the topic of **Active Citizenship**. It is a result of the intellectual work of youth workers from 4 countries: Poland (Logos NGO), Portugal (Associação Animam Viventem), Romania (Asociatia "Un strop de fericire") and Sweden (Awesome people).

Escape rooms are live-action, team-based games where players discover clues, solve puzzles, and accomplish tasks in one or more spaces (rooms) to achieve a specific goal (usually escaping from the room) in a limited amount of time.

But why use them for educational purposes? One of the most common reasons is that today teachers and youth workers are facing difficulty in attracting and retaining young people's attention. Educators are always in search of new tools and escape rooms can be a good solution.

We hope you will work with it and learn a lot!





"DEMOCRACY IN ACTION"

 **Topic:** Active Citizenship


 **Learning outcomes:**


- Knowledge of what is Active Citizenship, and what can be active citizenship actions
- Knowledge of democratic notions and how they are applied
- Knowledge of key dates and names and how they helped democracy become what it is today

 **Age:** 14+

 **Group size:** 3-5 players

 **Language:** English

 **Playing time:** 10' introduction | 30' playing | 15' debriefing and discussion

 **Players' role:** Protesters for the rigged elections

 **Communication with players:** face-to-face

 **Rules:**

- Be careful when handling the puzzles!
- Each puzzle/challenge plays only once!
- You are allowed to ask for 3 clues!
- Take care of yourself and your team!
- Do not touch what is marked with a sticky note!
- You have 40 minutes. You cannot leave the room until the time expires or after you have found the key!
- No phones allowed!
- Game Master is a supervisor and there for clues!
- Do you have any questions?

 **Building instruction:** [building_manual](#)



GAMEPLAY

Introduction:

The Game Master tells the participants the storyline:

After being elected in 2021 with a majority of votes, Activenia's president declares that to stabilize the country, he will reinstate himself as king, there will be only one political party in the Parliament, ruled by him and all protesters will be declared undesirables to the society. People suspect that the elections were rigged but they are too scared of the new measures to protest.

Now, as the winter seems to have returned and with an ongoing military conflict, he imposed a new series of taxes for a new and unknown "green energy" to make the country independent of foreign imports. At the same time, there have been rumors about the building of a new luxurious villa at the seaside, whose owner is unknown.

People are tired and fed up so they decide to take action. They flood the streets and succeed in entering the presidential building. Aware of the situation, the president has already flown the country. However, you and some protesters got to the oval office.

Ultimate mission:

Participants have 30 minutes to find the clues and proofs of the rigged elections before the military forces arrive at the scene. On the table in front of you is the first challenge. Goodluck!

ORDER OF PUZZLES

Briefing



Mirror



CODE: Executive
CLUE: Montesquieu

Book



CODE: 1748

UV lantern



CODE: Legislative

Box of candies



CODE: key

Seif



CODE: Justice

„Bring them to justice“



CODE: 1989

Files 1&2



CODE 1: DEMOCRACY
CODE 2: 1787

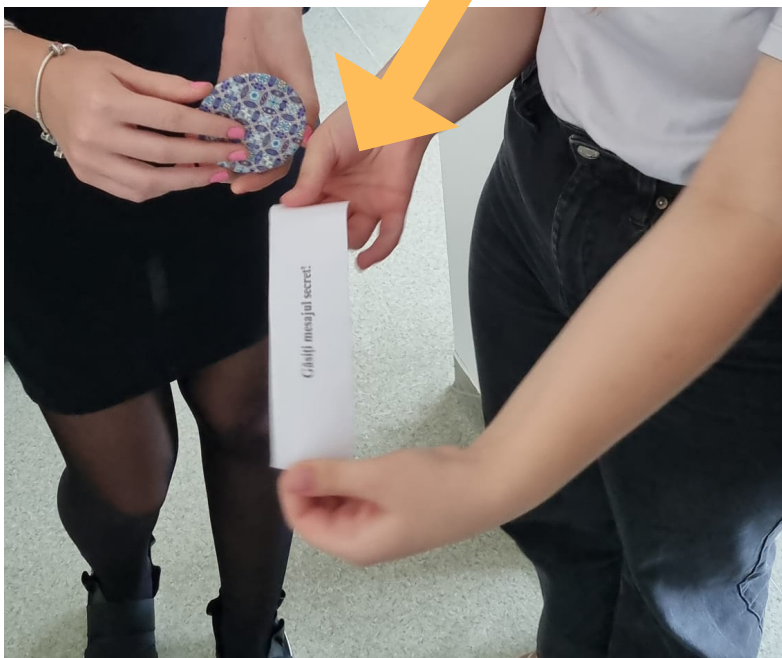
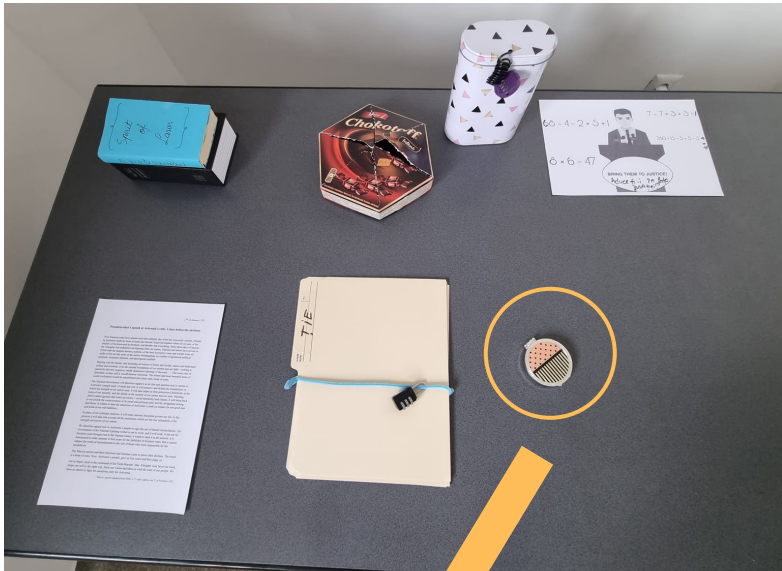
CONGRATULATIONS!



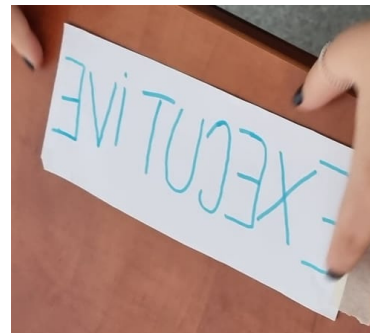
PUZZLES LIST

Puzzle 1| Mirror

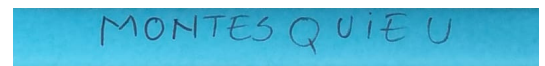
Participants walk in the room. On the table in front of them they find "Find the secret message!" and a mirror. Under the table, the word EXECUTIVE is written backwards. They use the mirror to find the message. They also find the next clue under the table: the word Montesquieu.



Found under the table:



+

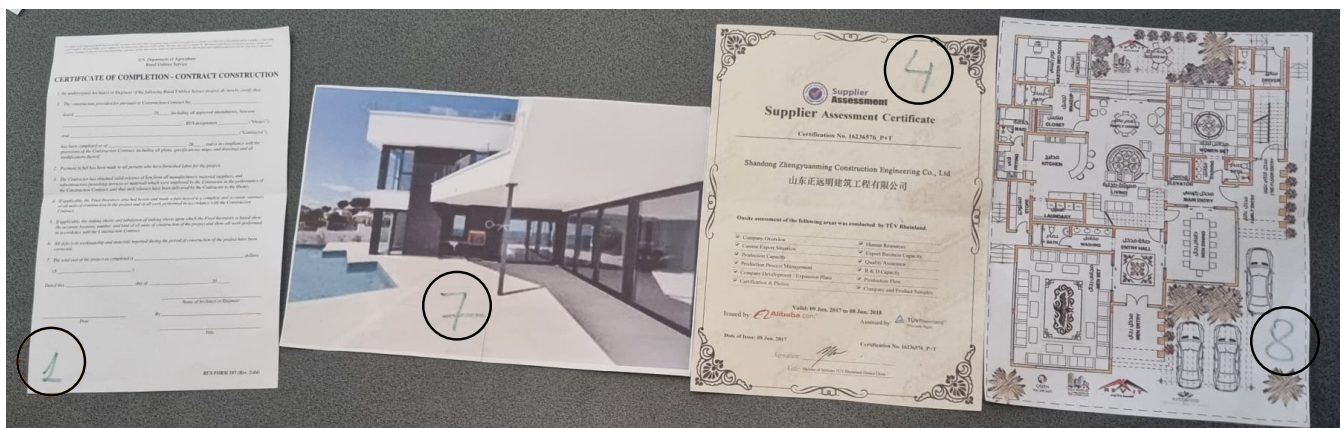
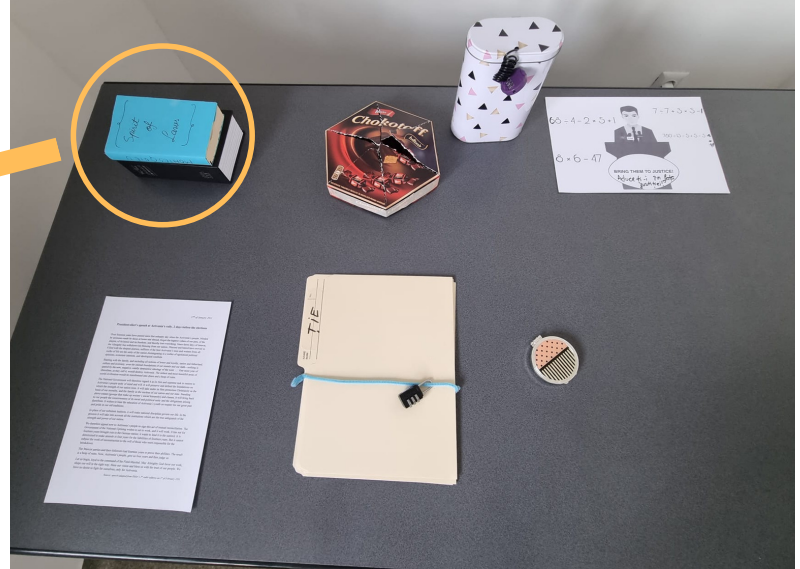
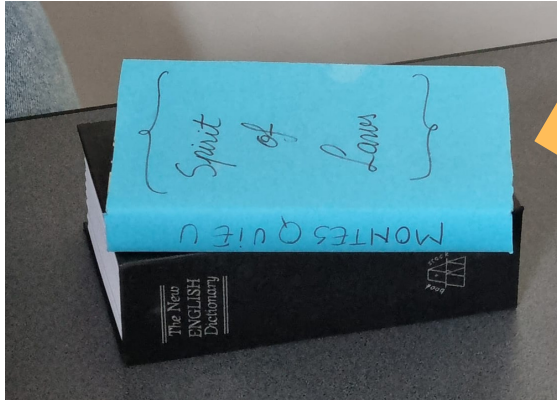


CODE: Executive

CLUE: Montesquieu

Puzzle 2 | Book

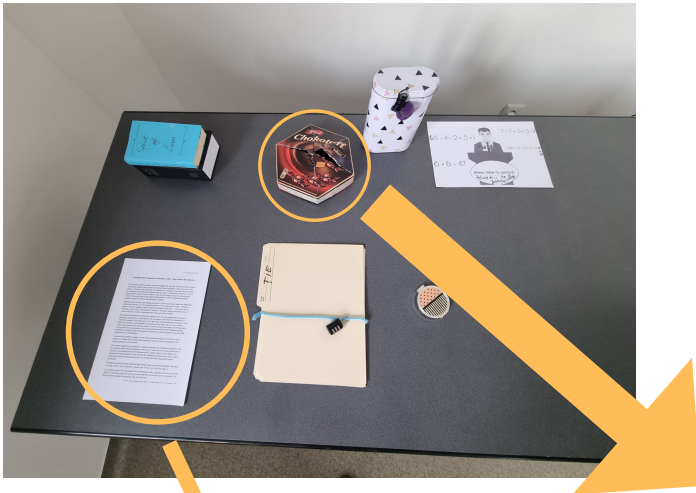
In the library/on the table is a book entitled "Montesque - The Spirit of Laws". In the book they find the acts for the building of the seaside villa with the page numbers mixed.



CODE: 1748

Puzzle 3| UV lantern

The code opens a box nearby in which they find a pen with and UV lantern and the message: "Find the hidden word!". On the board next to the box they find the presidential speech in which the ruling party is decided. In the speech the letters for LEGISLATIVE are circled.



Puzzle 4| Box of candies

In the library/on the table it's a box of candies with the word "legislative" on the sides. Inside they find the key to a seif.

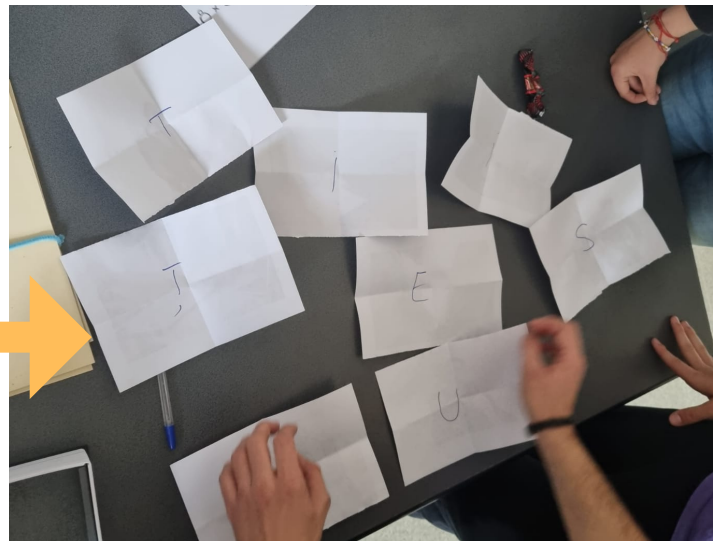
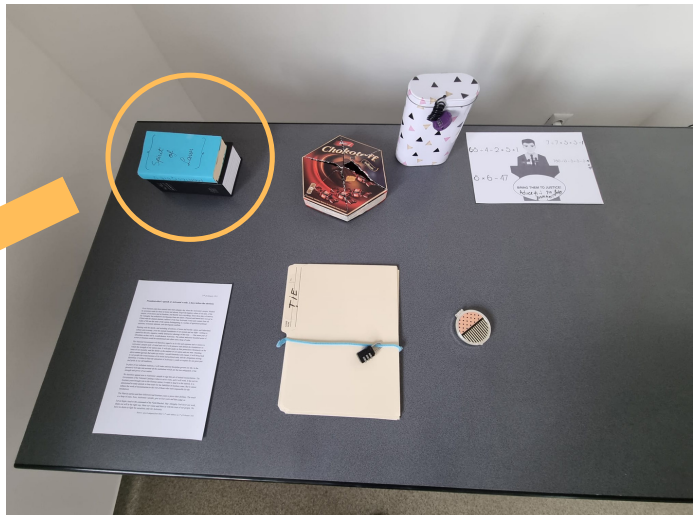
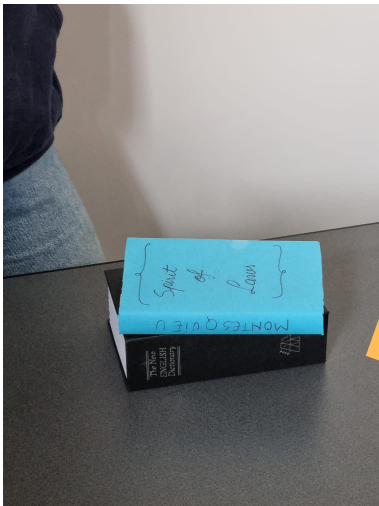


Over fourteen years have passed since that unhappy day when the Activenia's people, blinded by promises made by those at home and abroad, forgot the highest values of our past, of the empire, of its honor and its freedom, and thereby lost everything. Since those days of treason, the Almighty has withdrawn his blessing from our nation.

CODE: Legislative

Puzzle 5| Seif

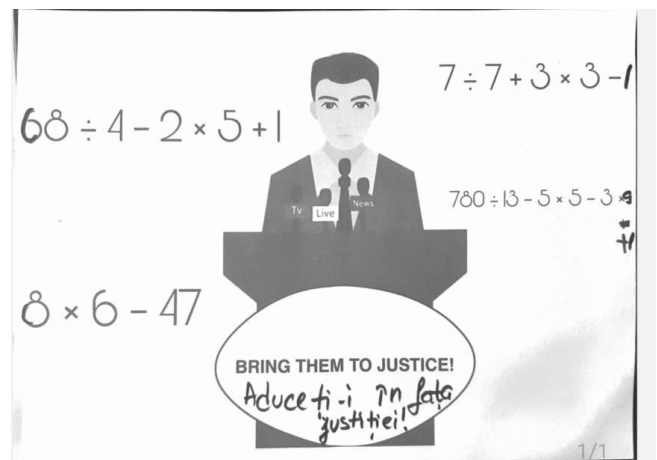
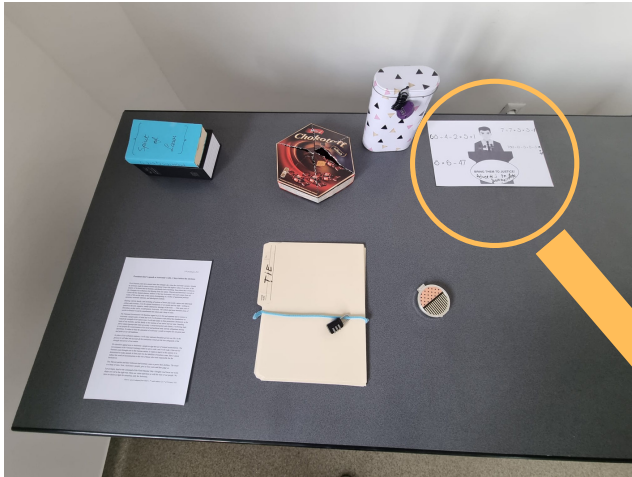
In the stack of books in the library/on the table they find a seif disguised as a dictionary. The key opens the seif in which there are pictures with the president and politicians receiving money. On the back of the pictures are the letters for JUSTICE.



CODE: Justice

Puzzle 6| „Bring them to justice”

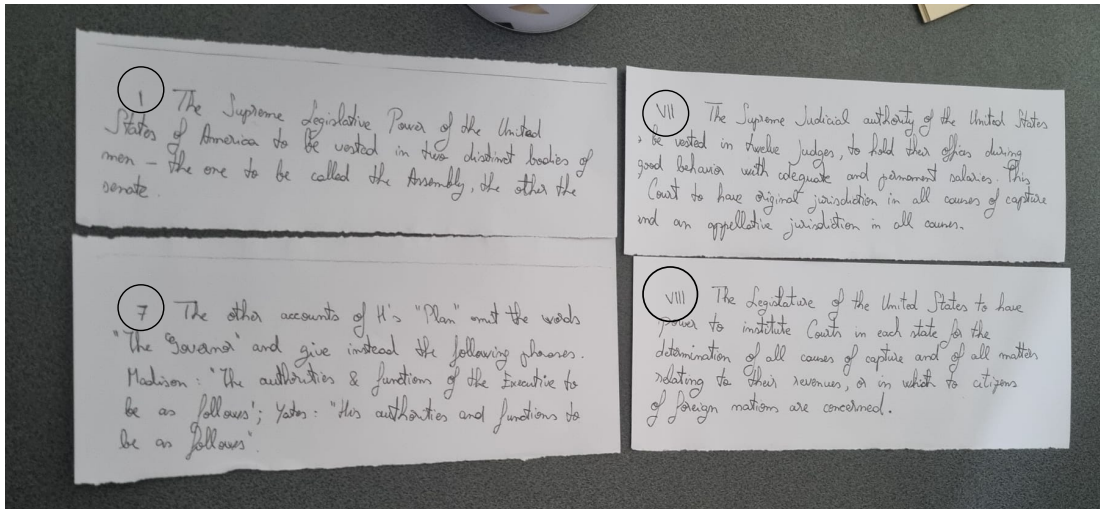
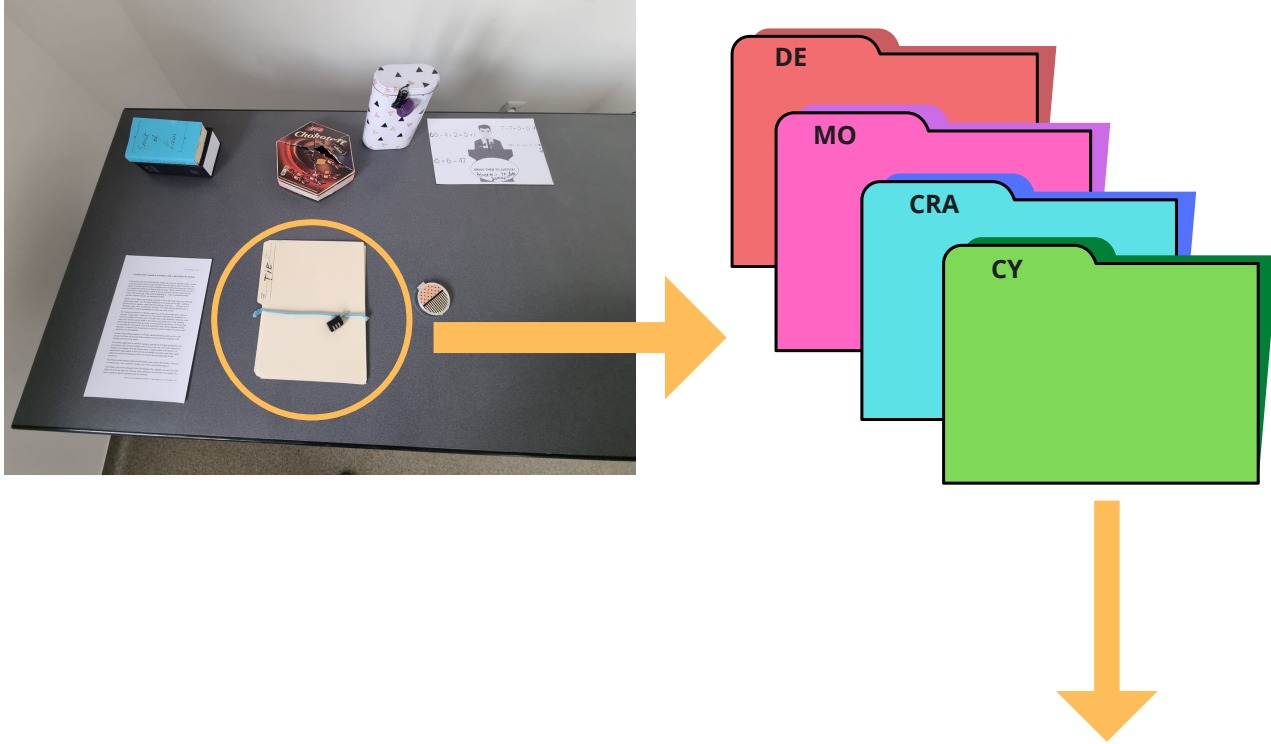
In the room is an image titled “Bring them to justice”. They have to solve the mathematical equations which and then put the answers in the correct order to form the year “1989”.



CODE: 1989

Puzzle 7 | Files 1&2

On the table are 4 files. On their covers are the syllables for the first code: "democracy". Inside them are pieces from the message the president sent to rig the elections, pages are numbered. Put in order they make the second code 1787.

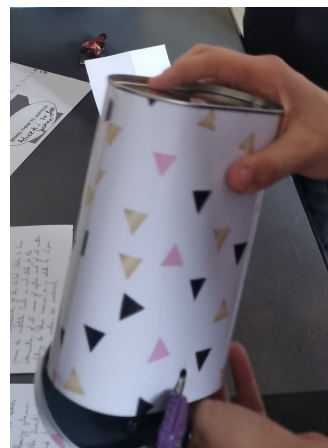
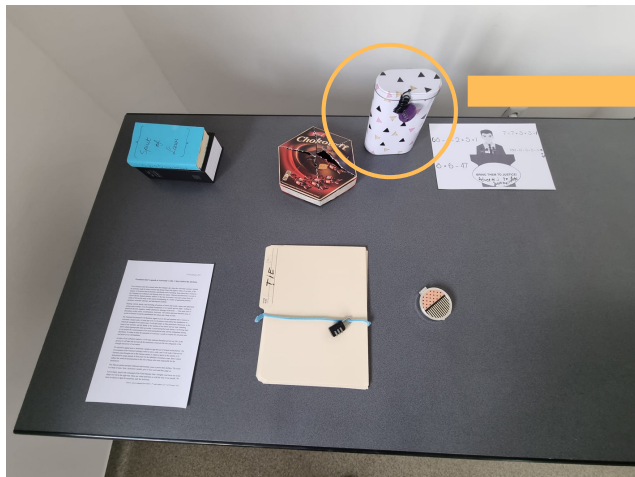


CODE 1: Democracy

CODE 2: 1787

Puzzle 8| Congratulations!

The code opens another box in which they find the key to unlock the door and the message "Congratulations!".



DEBRIEFING



Ending point:

Players found proof of the rigged elections.



De-roleing:

Tell the players the game has finished, and whether or not they completed the task on time. Then, ask the following questions:

- What was good/you liked?
- What should be improved?



Reflection:

The Game Master explains the notions and key dates and names which they found throughout the escape room.

- **Notions:** *Executive, legislative, justice* - what are these ?

According to the separation of powers doctrine, they are the branches in which the power to decide and rule over a state should be split to ensure stability and prevent dictatorship. More accurately, the separation of powers refers to the division of a state's government into branches, each with separate, independent powers and responsibilities, so that the powers of one branch are not in conflict with those of the other branches. The typical division is into three branches: a legislature, an executive, and a judiciary, which is the *trias politica* model.

- **Codes:** 1748, Montesquieu, 1787, 1989
- 1748 - *The Spirit of Laws* by Montesquieu - published in the Age of Enlightenment by French political thinker and social commentator Montesquieu, this paper represents one of the earliest and clearest statements of separation of powers: "When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty... there is no liberty if the powers of judging is not separated from the legislative and executive... there would be an end to everything, if the same man or the same body... were to exercise those three powers."
- 1787 - The Constitution of the United States - first formal separation of powers within the government. In Federalist No. 78, Alexander Hamilton, citing Montesquieu, redefined the judiciary as a separate branch of government coequal with the legislative and the executive branches.
- 1989 - the fall of communism in Europe + 1990 - 1991 - first free elections and the fall of URSS
- **Notion:** *democracy*

Democracy represents a form of government in which supremacy belongs to the people, which are directly involved in the decision-making process and ruling of their state. Democracy is based on the distribution of power and the separation of powers is mostly used in democracies.

Discussion:

Starting from the example of our own country, start a discussion with the participants.
Example: Romania, as well as Activenia, represent a semi-presidential republic, hence a democracy, that follows the trias politica model. In our country, the executive is represented by the President and the government, the legislative is represented by a bi-cameral Parliament and there is an independent judiciary system. They all interact and depend on one another.

How is the separation of powers applied in your country?





SECRET CODE FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP



Erasmus+

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