



Urban River Basin Enhancement Methods

Aesthetic Evaluation Work Package 4

IST

July 2005

EVK-CT-2002-00082

Deliverable 4.4

This volume shows an example of the training material produced for deliverable 4.4. The full version of the work carried out for this deliverable is given in the Work Package 11 contribution as this represents the comprehensive version of the training and dissemination outputs of the URBEM project.

NOTES ON PRESENTATIONS FOR TARGETS A, C and B:

TARGET A:

Presentation has a **total of 12 slides**.

File attached: **4Urbem-Aesthetics_Target A.ppt**

TARGET B:

- The **Main Presentation** has a **total of 24 slides**.

File attached: **4Urbem-Aesthetics_Target B_Main.ppt**

- The **Presentation with Additional Information** has a **total of 43 slides**.

File attached: **4Urbem-Aesthetics_Target B_AddInfo_RiverCityPeople.ppt**

Note that.. This additional information on the 3 dimension can be integrated into the Main Presentation in several ways:

- **with links** at each of the points - River /City / People – in the main Presentation [linking them to the respective set of slides that explain the descriptors used in each dimension].
- **incorporating all the 43 slides** in the body of the Main Presentation **after Slide #18** of Main Pres. (and before slide #19)
- **at the end** of Main Presentation – **as a link to further info**.

Note also.. you can find additional information regarding the example of the Jarda's Stream Aesthetic Profile in the file: **4Urbem-Aesthetics_Target B_AddInfo_Jardas.ppt**

TARGET C:

Presentation has a **total of 16 slides**.

File attached: **4Urbem-Aesthetics_Target C.ppt**

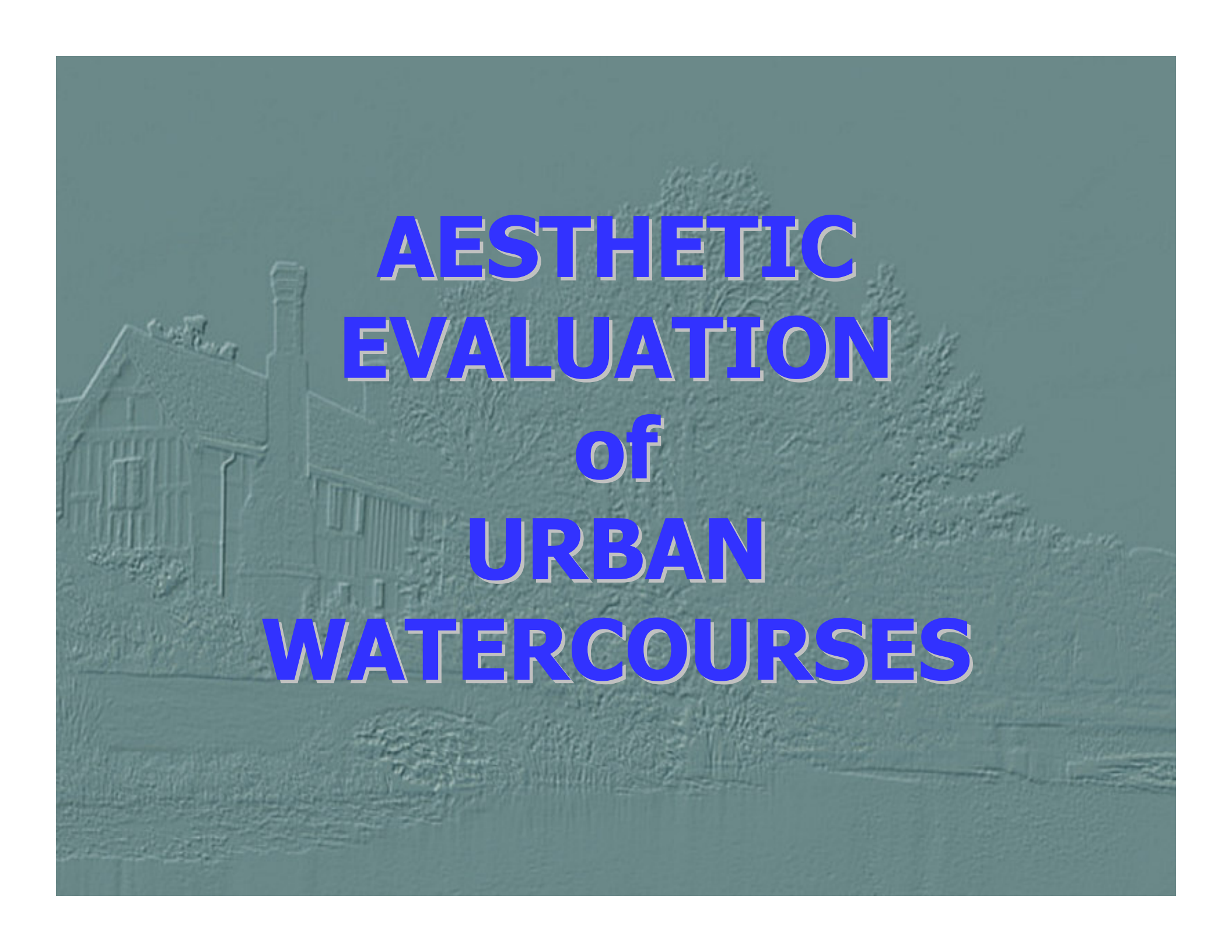
NOTES ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / LINKS:

We have included some text on the Methodology. The file corresponds to the extended abstract of the paper that will be presented at the URBEM Conference, Dresden.

File attached: (URRC05_methodology_of_aesthetic_evaluation_of_rivers__F_.doc)

Note that the bibliography list (or 'further readings' link) should be taken out of the same paper (extended abstract) attached.

For information that should be showing up as links in these presentations, please see last slide of each target presentation.

The background of the slide is a monochromatic, teal-toned photograph. It depicts a historic building with a prominent chimney and a gabled roof on the left side. To the right of the building are several large, leafy trees. The entire scene is reflected in a body of water at the bottom of the frame, creating a symmetrical effect. The text is overlaid on this background.

AESTHETIC EVALUATION of URBAN WATERCOURSES

Aesthetical evaluation

Landscape aesthetical evaluation is now a recognized key aspect of urban river rehabilitation projects.

Several European policy documents encourage/require the inclusion of aesthetical considerations and assessment procedures in the urban planning process – a task that has been often found difficult to accomplish due to its complexity and subjective nature.

URBEM has developed a methodology that allows decision makers to evaluate the aesthetic performance of an urban river, making it possible to assess its potential for river rehabilitation.



Aesthetical evaluation methodology

Allows us to...

Gain a better understanding of the different dimensions and characteristics that can be improved through a river rehabilitation scheme:

the River, or natural dimension

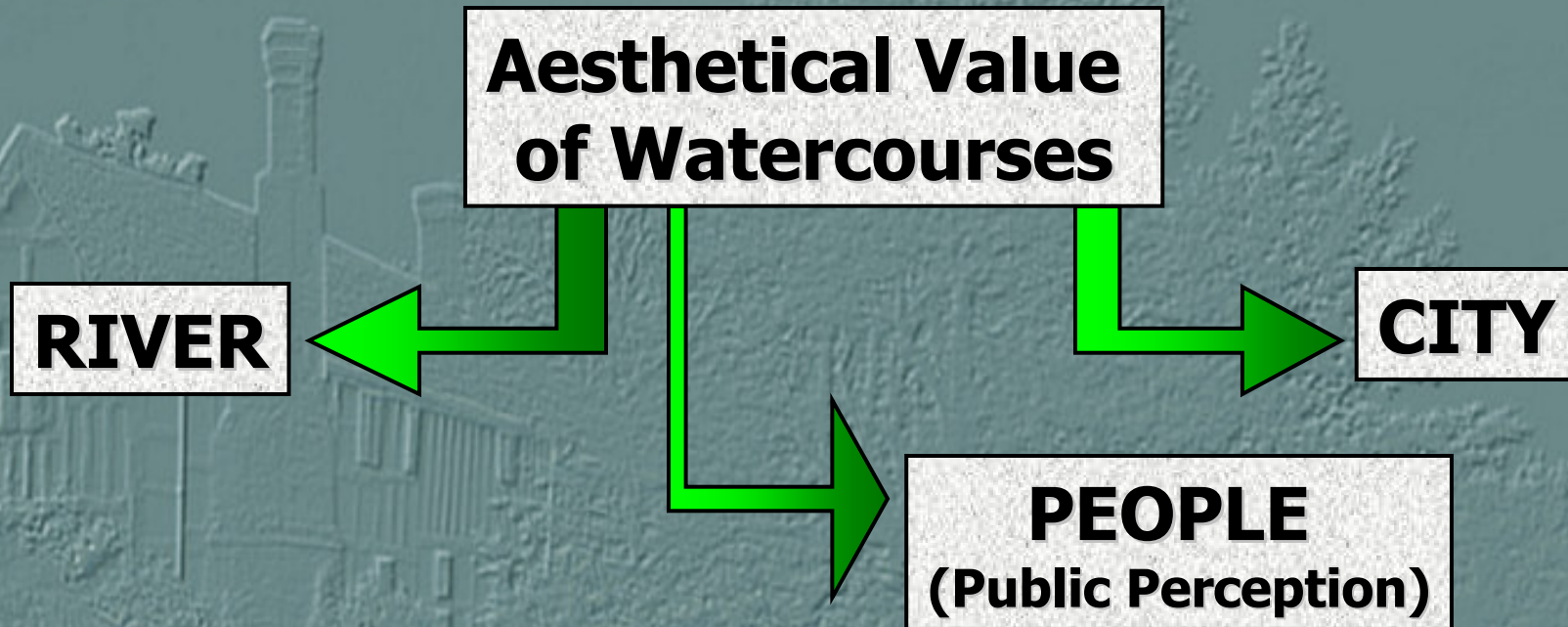
the City, or social dimension

the People, or public perception dimension

Compare performances between different sites, different alternatives, and different dimensions.

Choose rehabilitation projects that will best improve the quality of the urban environment.

A tri-dimensional approach



Progress

Aesthetical Value of Watercourses

RIVER

River Typology

River Morphology

Biological Components

Natural Techno-Hazards

*main natural features
that can influence
rivers aesthetics are
considered*

Progress

**Aesthetical Value
of Watercourses**

RIVER

River Typology

River Morphology

Biological Components

Natural Techno-Hazards

for example

Flood Vulnerability

**Erosion and
Landslide Risk**



4. Aesthetic Evaluation of Urban Watercourses

Progress

Aesthetical Value of Watercourses

RIVER

River Typology

River Morphology

Biological Components

Natural Techno-Hazards

for example

Flood Vulnerability

**Erosion and
Landslide Risk**



4. Aesthetic Evaluation of Urban Watercourses

Progress

Aesthetical Value of Watercourses

CITY

*main issues that
describe and influence
the aesthetic value of a
city-river landscape*

Urban Space Quality

Activities of Riverfront

Accessibility

Pollution

Cultural Heritage

Progress

**Aesthetical Value
of Watercourses**

PEOPLE

Public perception of river landscape

Place identity

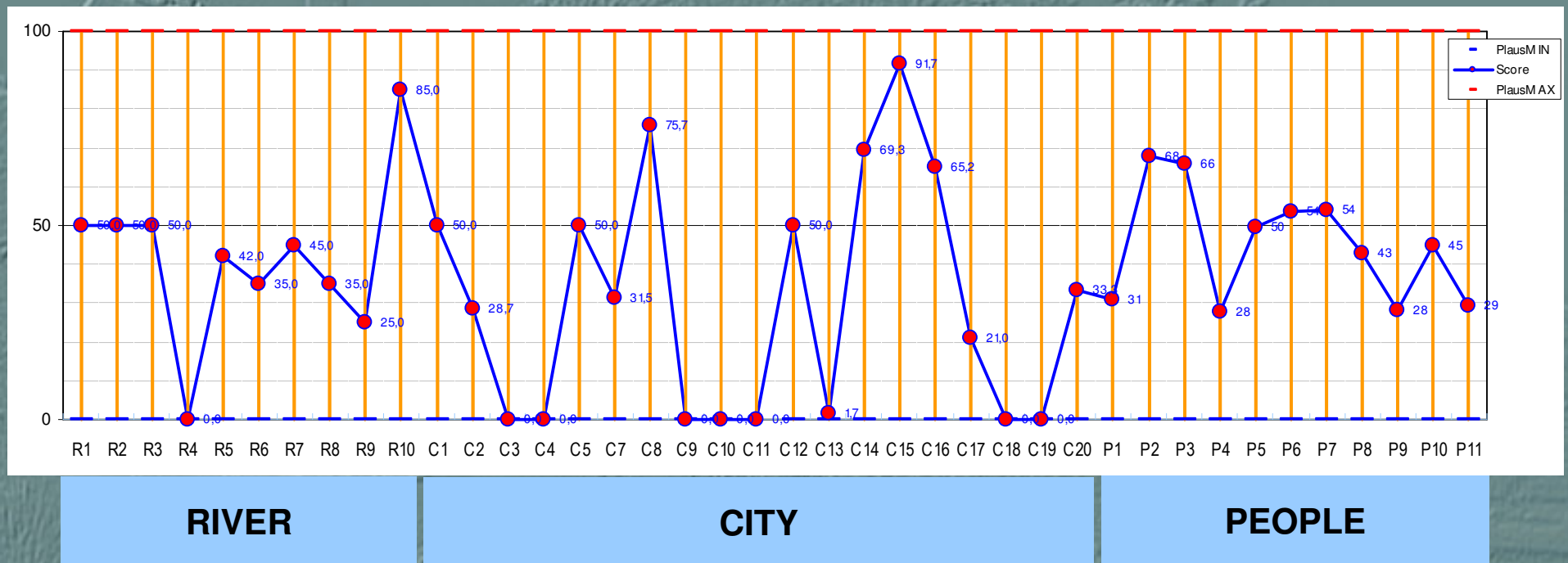
Restorative capacity



4. Aesthetic Evaluation of Urban Watercourses

The result – profiling aesthetical characteristics

profiles help show how the different characteristics score and can help guide urban river rehabilitation interventions in order to maximize the aesthetic value of a city-river landscape



4. Aesthetic Evaluation of Urban Watercourses

Summarizing considerations

Evaluation of urban rivers as to their aesthetical values can be used to guide rehabilitation interventions to make the most of their potential.

The methodology integrates expert assessments and public surveys into a multi-criteria decision analysis to assess the aesthetic performance of urban rivers.

It reveals the diversity of characteristics of each urban river and their potential for rehabilitation – some could be more related with the social and cultural context, others with a more natural landscape.

It has been tested in different European settings – Portugal, Slovenia, the UK, France.

It is a powerful means of communicating & evaluating proposals of river rehabilitation projects, as well as other interventions in urban waterfronts.



For further information

[Link to more detailed paper...](#)

»»» include link to extended abstract to be presented at the URBEM Conference – Dresden (file: URRC05_methodology_of_aesthetic_evaluation_of_rivers__F_.doc)

»»» *we would also suggest including links to both:*
- *the "References" included in the extended abstract (probably as "Further Readings"), and*
- *the full report of WP4*

