Preface

This book puts together research experiences and solutions oriented to combine competitiveness and environmental sustainability, both on a methodological and applicative dimension, coming from academics, managers operating in various productive sectors and consultants. The aim of this publication is contributing to the growth and spread of scientific research and technological development for environmental sustainability, a topic whose importance is growing in Europe, involving various industries and professional contexts.

Pursuing this aim, the book gives an outline of the multiple application of the concept of environmental sustainability both providing an overview of various methodologies and tools useful in achieving sustainability targets and reporting on a very different experiences and case studies on sustainable management. Indeed, the basic idea that led the authors to edit this book was to bring together in a single volume:

• An overview of the multiple application of the concept of environmental sustainability, because the book contains examples of different methodologies and tools useful in pursuing environmental targets;
• Experiences and case studies applied in different productive sectors, embracing both industry experiences and research projects;
• Experiences and case studies applied in very different territorial context.

The development of this basic idea allowed the authors to edit a book that has a multidisciplinary European dimension, because, even if it mainly contains experiences and case studies related to the Italian context, also other countries practices are reported, furthermore authors come from different countries and activity sectors, and report on environmental issues of primary importance in Europe.

All the chapters of this book have been submitted to a double blind peer review and were organized in three main thematic parts:

• The first part covers some of the most interesting and emerging issues relating environmental sustainability methodologies, such as Industrial Ecology, Urban Metabolism, Life Cycle Assessment, Water Footprint and examples of some chemical technologies;
• The second part provides experiences and case studies of environmental sustainability applied in specific productive sectors, such as the electronic, the pharmaceutical, the energy, and the agri-food ones;

• The third part provides experiences and case studies of environmental sustainability specifically applied in territorial contexts on a local, regional or national scale, such as cities, industrial areas or countries.

This book is the result of research and dissemination activities realized with the support of:

The University of Messina

The Italian Academy of Commodity Science—AISME

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Pathways to Environmental Sustainability
Methodologies and Experiences
Salomone, R.; Saija, G. (Eds.)
2014, XXIII, 276 p. 54 illus., 4 illus. in color., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-3-319-03825-4