



INDUSTRIAL ECOLOGY APPLIED TO INDUSTRIAL PARKS IN THE FRENCH CONTEXT

COMETHE, A RESEARCH PROJECT AIMING AT :

- 1. CREATING DECISION-MAKING TOOLS FOR INDUSTRIAL ECOLOGY**
- 2. IMPLEMENTING INDUSTRIAL ECOLOGY INTO INDUSTRIAL PARKS**

In France it exists between 24 000 and 50 000 industrial parks (also called industrial estates or business areas)...Meeting point for companies, local authorities, civilian organisations and park managers, industrial parks represent a vast “laboratory” for the implementation of sustainable development strategies : collective waste and sewage management, transportation issues and accessibility, risk management, services development, consultations and stakeholders participation, etc.

Integrating so many complex issues is a real challenge for local public authorities and firms. In addition, there is an urgent need to develop stronger methodological and technical tools to lead the decision-making process with the most reliable elements in order to achieve local sustainable development objectives.

Since 2008, Orée leads the COMETHE* project, laureate of the French Programme for Research into Eco-Technologies and Sustainable Development, launched by the French National Research Agency. This project started in 2008 and lasts 3 years.

COMETHE is based on the joint effort of 15 partners: universities, research centres, environmental protection organisations, planning offices and experts, local authorities and companies. Concretely, this project follows four main objectives:

- The production of knowledge in the technological and technical domains as well as in social and economical sciences
- The creation of a methodological handbook for the implementation of industrial ecology, applied to industrial parks
- The elaboration of an integrated tool articulating four specific modules
- The realization of diagnosis and feasibility studies for the 7 territories involved in the project (located in 4 different French Regions and involving more than 30 local partners).

Finally, more than 1000 firms could benefit of the results of this very first research program at a national level.

* Conception of methodological and assessment tools for industrial ecology. Further details : www.comethe.org