

4 - Digital Resources for Science Teaching and Learning | Empirical

SP - (16456) - TEACHING SUSTAINABILITY TOPICS IN VIRTUAL WORLDS. A PRELIMINARY STUDY

Michelina Occhioni (Italy)¹; Alessandra Beccaceci (Italy)¹; Eleonora Paris (Italy)¹

1 - University of Camerino

Short Abstract

Education for Sustainability may contribute to the real change of mind among students who could become action-makers towards a social transformation. Virtual worlds can help learning Sustainability topics offering a rich learning environment to explore, collaborate and interact. This paper presents a preliminary study to experiment how virtual worlds can help middle school students to achieve a global point of view about Sustainability, using an Opensimulator platform. The experimentation was carried out with a 21 teachers' group. They explored the educational paths, interacting with objects, reading in-world and web-resources, playing online games and running quizzes. Results show that teachers found the Sustainability Hub, created for this activity, as an involving, interesting and well-organized educational tool to approach Sustainability topics.