

#### **D1.4) Schools: school selection criteria – schools, teachers, students**

Each partner country will recruit three schools, with a minimum three teachers from the same subject area (mathematics or science) in each school. Where partners are working with mathematics and science teachers, two clusters may be established.

Due to the rigorous nature of the design study and the commitment teachers make to the process, it is important that partner countries are able to select schools that they are confident can fulfil these requirements. Many partners have existing relationships with schools and teachers and FaSMEd is keen that these relationships should be utilised to maximise the likely success of the study. With this in mind the criteria for school selection has degrees of flexibility as detailed below:

- A minimum of three schools, with a minimum of three teachers in each school, will form a cluster
- Teachers of mathematics, science, or mathematics and science.
- Teachers should be fully qualified within context (student teachers should not be selected for this study)
- Students aged between 10 and 14 years (where necessary 8 to 16 years)
- This research study is focused on the needs of low achieving learners in mathematics and science, whilst recognising that this may be enacted in mixed attainment classrooms, where a setting structure is in existence the highest attainment classes should not be selected and where there is school selection criteria on entry, the highest achieving schools should also not be selected.
- The study is not intended for classes where the majority of the children could be considered to have 'special needs' although it is understood that some classes may have such children in their cohort.
- It is desirable that across FaSMEd there should be some schools that are already technology rich and want to experiment further with formative assessment and others that have existing good practise in formative assessment but wish to expand their use of technologies. The expression of technology can include a wide range of tools, for example, from handheld whiteboards and pens to I pads. Each partner country should outline the contextual background of their selected schools so that the distribution throughout the project can be established.