

**Belmont Forum
International Opportunities Fund
Mountains of Sentinels of Change**

National Annex: National Science Foundation, United States of America

FUNDING PRINCIPLES

Within each selected consortium, funding of the participating researchers is provided by their respective national funding organization in accordance with their standard award terms and conditions. Funding is meant to support the formation of new international networks for 18-36 months, beginning in 2016. Several networks already exist focusing on some of the key elements of the mountain research on ecosystems, biodiversity, climate modifications, the many aspects of the hydrological cycle, the economic and societal impacts in the mountains and downstream, etc. However, there is a lack of research using integrated systems approaches: the research community is fragmented, with mostly national, non-interdisciplinary approaches, and there is a disconnect between the socio-economic studies of mountain and valley societies. All projects have to include a budget for participation in synthesis meetings that will be held back-to-back with a scientifically relevant international conference or event.

The total budget for this call is approximately 3 million Euros. NSF anticipates that a total of 8 - 10 research consortia will be supported for up to 36 months. ***The maximum total budget request for all US investigators in a consortium must not exceed \$150,000 per year.***

ELIGIBILITY

Each consortium must include partners from at least three participating countries and must show clear links through to users and include collaboration between natural and social/economic sciences, and other sciences where relevant. Researchers from countries not represented by any of the partner-countries can participate in the research project at their own expense.

Consortium partners should identify a Leading Principal Investigator (LPI) for each proposal for application, management and communication purposes. The LPI is officially responsible for all communications with the Call Program Office, including the submission Proposal. These communications must be in accordance with the LPI's funding agency requirements.

U.S. investigators may only be ***part of one consortium***. Accordingly, U.S. investigators may be listed as either Lead PI, Co-PI (Partner PI) or Senior Personnel on ***only one proposal***.

In accordance with NSF policy, proposals cannot list more than 4 Co-PI's (Partner-PI's) from U.S. institutions. Additional U.S. collaborators must be listed as Senior Personnel.

Funding opportunities for researchers from developing countries can be found through the NSF/USAID Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research ([PEER](#)¹) program. The next funding opportunity is expected to be announced in the October/November and follow a similar time-schedule.

¹ PEER Program (<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/dsc/peer/index.htm>)

FUNDING PROCEDURES

For U.S. investigators that are part of a consortium and are NOT the Lead PI, all proposals (pre- and full) will be submitted to the Call Program Office by the consortium's Lead PI in accordance with the Agency's or Country's procedures.

In accordance with NSF policy, proposals (pre- and full) that have U.S. Lead PI's must be submitted to the on-line Belmont Forum system by the Lead PI's office of sponsored research or equivalent. No proposals submitted directly to the Belmont on-line system by a U.S. Lead PI will be accepted; In addition, NO proposals submitted directly to FASTLANE will be accepted.

In accordance with NSF policy, a proposal cannot list more than 4 Co-PI's from U.S. institutions. Additional U.S. collaborators must be listed as Senior Personnel.

Once the review process is complete, the U.S. Lead PI will be contacted by the NSF point of contact with further instructions on how to upload the proposal information into FASTLANE. In addition, U.S. investigators that are part of a consortium and are NOT the Lead PI, will be contacted by NSF point of contact to upload proposal information into FASTLANE.

National Contact Points:

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