MRI Synthesis Workshops
- General Eligibility and Funding Conditions -

1. The MRI synthesis workshops are community-led activities that bring people together for collaboration, and generate outcomes and outputs that connect and synthesise existing data, information, publications, and/or other forms of knowledge that have the potential to provide new insights on the state of mountains in a global context, thereby supporting the MRI's mission[1]. Activities that support and/or contribute to the work of the MRI Working Groups[2] or the Global Network on Observations and Information in Mountain Environments (GEO Mountains[3]), are particularly encouraged. Other activities such as individual or project-related primary research, proposal preparation or conference attendance are not eligible under this funding call.

2. The workshop's main proponent(s) must have full and updated profiles in the MRI Experts Database[4] at the time of proposal submission, including expertise and/or a track record of recent and/or key relevant publications that correspond to the proposed workshop theme or topic. If the proposed activity directly supports and/or contributes to the work of a specific MRI Working Group, a statement of support (e.g. email correspondence or letter) from the MRI Working Group lead(s) is required.

3. Workshops must be open and international in participation, following MRI's guiding principles[5] for engagement and collaboration. Proponents should open and encourage the participation of early-career researchers (ECRs, generally up to 5 years after MSc or PhD) and researchers from developing countries.

4. Proponents are expected to generate most of the funding and/or in-kind contributions necessary to resource the activity. Types of costs eligible for support from the MRI's contribution to the activity's budget can include: contributions to travel and accommodation expenses for keynote speakers and/or workshop participants, where **priority for funding allocation is given to ECRs or those coming from developing countries**; other direct meeting costs incurred by the hosts; and/or contributions to open access publication fees of workshop products. The MRI excludes the use of its funds for overheads incurred by the host institution.

5. In keeping to the MRI's focus on global change in mountains as integrated social-ecological systems, the MRI encourages inter- and/or transdisciplinary synthesis collaborations and co-production of knowledge that take into account both natural and social sciences and humanities, and where possible and/or relevant, include other stakeholders outside of academia, such as practitioners, NGOs, or other community members.

6. Successful applicants will be required to sign a grant transfer agreement and will need to liaise with the MRI Communications Manager well before the scheduled activity to ensure the activity and any deadlines for registrations are publicised as widely and as early as possible. Once details of the activity are confirmed, an event entry will be created on the MRI website and shared on social media. After the event, a contribution to the MRI Global Newsletter[6] in the form of a newsletter article on workshop outcomes, and/or an entry in the MRI Mountains Blogs[7], are also expected. All communication guidelines, logos and templates will be provided upon confirmation of the grant.

7. After the event, a full activity report is required within six (6) weeks of the event taking place, describing key outcomes and products to be developed, including a participant list and financial accounting outlining how the funding was used. The MRI Coordination Office will provide reporting templates.

8. All outputs that ensue as a result of the supported workshop or activity, including oral or poster presentations at conferences, must include the MRI logo and/or acknowledge the MRI funding contribution, with a copy of all products provided to the MRI Coordination Office as they become available. If the activity seeks to compile and/or generate new data or datasets, these need to follow the general open data policy at the MRI[8], which aligns with the data policies of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO[9]) and the World Data System[10].

9. Proposals are evaluated by the MRI Governing Body – MRI Chair and Co-Principle Investigators (Co-PIs)[11], members of the MRI Science Leadership Council[12] and the MRI Executive Director. Consequently, MRI Co-PIs and members of the MRI SLC are not personally eligible to apply for funds under this call.

10. A call for synthesis workshops is generally published in the first half of every year. Workshop proposals are to be submitted online via the specific call's submission form (not via email), ensuring to provide all requested information by the specified deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For questions, please contact the MRI at mri@mountainresearchinitiative.org

- MRI Coordination Office, 30 June 2022

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[1] https://www.mountainresearchinitiative.org/who-we-are
[2] https://www.mountainresearchinitiative.org/activities/community-led-activities/working-groups
[3] https://www.mountainresearchinitiative.org/activities/projects/geo-mountains
[4] https://www.mountainresearchinitiative.org/find-an-expert
[5] https://www.mountainresearchinitiative.org/activities
[6] https://www.mountainresearchinitiative.org/news
[7] https://www.mountainresearchinitiative.org/news/blog-item
[8] https://www.mountainresearchinitiative.org/activities/projects/geo-mountains
[9] http://www.earthobservations.org/open_eo_data.php
[10] https://www.worlddatasystem.org/services/data-sharing-principles
[11] https://www.mountainresearchinitiative.org/who-we-are/team/principal-investigators
[12] https://www.mountainresearchinitiative.org/who-we-are/team/science-leadership-council