

## Content and structure of the Research Plan

### Title

**Abstract:** one page long abstract in Catalan, English and Spanish: objectives, interest and originality of the scientific contribution, and possible application fields

### Contents

#### Body of the Research Plan

- Introduction of the research topic
  - Research problem or object of analysis. You must clearly identify the phenomenon to be researched.
  - State of the art of the phenomenon under research
    - *You should refer to the most recent publications available in the literature about the phenomenon in question.*
  - Objectives of the dissertation. You must specify the original contribution at which you aim that is expected to solve the research problem.
  - Theoretical framework(s) that are relevant, including a literature listing.
    - *This should not a history of the discipline, but a description of the theoretical background, objectives of the theory, main analysis tools, data representation approaches, etc. Explicit reference should be made to the research problem or object of analysis.*
  - Hypothesis, assumptions or background ideas which support the objectives
    - *They should derive from combining the objectives with the theoretical framework and the state of the art.*
- Research methodology
  - Adopted methodology
    - *Short revision of the methodologies adopted in the field. Justification of the adopted methodological approach.*
  - Tools and resources required to achieve the research plan
    - *Listing and justification of the tools and resources that will be required.*
- Work plan
  - Work packages in which the research is broken down..
    - *Grouping of the foreseen research activities in stages and content blocks that can be achieved in identifiable time periods. Both the dependencies between work packages and the achievement indicators must be foreseen.*
  - Timing (chronogram)
    - *Determination of the dates in which the work packages are completed.*
- References.
  - 5 of the literature references need to be explicitly commented
    - *A summary of the content is not required, but a personal comment on the relevance of the reference to the objectives of the dissertation. Comments have to*

*refer to the aspects mentioned in the state of the art, theoretical framework or justification of the methodology sections. These comments can be inserted in the corresponding section of the Research Plan; if so, it should be explicitly stated that it is the comment to one of the five required literature references.*

- If appropriate, the reference to previous publications on the subject will be listed as well.

### **Formal aspects of the Research Plan**

- Length: between 20 and 40 pages (and a maximum of 20 pages of annexes).
- Typed text, with 1.5 line spacing in Arial 11 or Times 12.
- Sections and subsections must be numbered.
- The document must be paginated.
- The bibliography must be sorted alphabetically and listed at the end of the document.
- Within the text the literature references must mention the author's name followed by the publication year (and the annotation "a", "b", etc., in case there is more than one reference of an author in the same year). All references must be listed in the bibliography section.
- Notes must be footnotes.

### **Timing of the Research Plan**

- The document must be delivered between February 1th and June 15th
- Oral presentations: between February 1th and July 15th
- Validation of the year's work: July 15th to July 29th