Doctoral programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences (DPSoc)

GUIDELINES FOR COMPILING A RESEARCH PLAN

A research plan must be attached to all applications for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position and applications for a study right for a doctoral degree. The research plan is a key document in the evaluation process of the applications. The research plan must not exceed 6 pages (A4, spacing 1, font 12, excluding list of references). Notice that applications are reviewed by a multidisciplinary panel.

A research plan must include the following components:

1. Abstract
- Name of author, field of science and title of research
- Max one page long
- Includes the key elements of the dissertation project: main research question, implementation (data, methods, theoretical framework) and contribution of the project to applicant's field of science. Notice especially when writing the abstract that the review panel is multidisciplinary.

2. Introduction of research setting
- Presentation of the research topic, main research question and the objectives of the research
- Short literature review
- Presentation of theoretical framework and background, key concepts and presentation of the hypotheses to be tested (if applicable)
- Significance of the research: contribution (i.e. new knowledge) of the project to the field of science
- Expected results

3. Research methods, data sets, schedule and supervision
- Presentation of research methods, data and the methods of acquiring the data. If the project is a study combining several subprojects, a presentation of the methods and data of each project is required.
- Presentation of potential ethical issues related to the data (e.g. ethics of procedures, consent of research subjects, ensuring the anonymity of research subjects, need and applying for research permission)
- Timetable of the research
- Commitment of the supervisors to the project

4. Research project's link to career plan of the applicant
- How the dissertation project will proceed applicant's career after the defence