Abstract (max 500 characters)
Briefly describe your research proposal. It should state the motive for the research, the objectives, the expected outcomes/results and the scientific significance of those outcomes/results.

- Tip: Write the abstract once you are done with the other items.
- Tip: Test your abstract with a lay person. If (s)he can understand what you are trying to tell, the abstract is perfect.

Key words (n. 3)
List the most appropriate words or expressions (up to 3) that you would introduce in a search engine to find a research proposal identical to yours.

N. 1 __________
N. 2 __________
N. 3 __________

Theoretical framework/ State of the art (max 2000 characters)
Provide a short overview of the theoretical state of art that applies to your research. Please include a conceptual framework; i.e. a schematic overview of the main concepts and causal model.

- Tip: A mind map may serve as a good starting point for structuring and relating your concepts.
- Tip: Start your causal model with what you consider the core, and work from there.

Problem statement and research question(s) (max 1000 characters)
The problem statement is a short description of the locus of your research. You will need to outline the theoretical and/or methodological issues. It is important that you state the scientific relevance of the proposed research: what scientific insight will you add?

- Tip: Do a quick scan of the scientific literature to get a better understanding of current debates. Some journals publish systematic literature reviews that could be useful for you.
- Tip: Do not pile too many ideas into one proposal.

Research objectives and expected results (max 1000 characters)
The clarification of the research objectives should build solidly on the State of the Art and relate your research to the work carried out by others. It should elucidate what your work develops from their work and the extent to which it diverges from theirs to open up new and yet unexplored avenues. The description of expected results should address impact on science, technology and society, if appropriate. Explain why these will result in a substantial advancement of science and/or technology. Speculate about the possible benefits of your intended research for society in general. Who will likely benefit from your research, at least in perspective?
Research methodology (max 1000 characters)
Provide an overview of your proposed research methodology. State the method you intend to use and explain why you think that this method suits the research objectives and questions. Please note that a technique is not a method (e.g. interviewing is a technique, regression analysis is a method).

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References (max 20 references)
In this section you should list all the references you have made throughout the Research Proposal, making sure that you comply with the referencing conventions or citation styles that have been established for your specific field (APA citation style).

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