What is RQ20 and why do we need it?

RQ20

Lund University's Research Quality Evaluation Project 2020

From the RQ 20 Project Plan

RQ20 – Aim and Task

RQ20 should provide a picture of how competitive the research of Lund University is in an international context. The evaluation is to look to the future by identifying strengths, weaknesses and development potential in all of the University's different research environments and in the organisations linked to these environments – for example, departments and faculties.

The aim of RQ20 is therefore to produce advisory documentation for the future, based on an analysis of the conditions within the University's different research environments.

From the RQ 20 Project Plan

**RQ20 is LU's own process –
not a response to rankings or an adaption to outside requirements**

Our starting point is that RQ20 is to benefit the reviewed activities: it should be possible for the evaluated environments (and the faculties and University management) to use the self-evaluation immediately for planning, operational descriptions and as documentation for funding applications both internally and externally.

From the RQ 20 Project Plan

"Help to self-help"

The aim is not to compare the research environments or to grade each one individually, instead, it is to contribute constructive observations on improvements and to recognise already accomplished achievements. Neither will RQ20 address direct financial benefits or distribution instruments. The aim is to detail the conditions at the different units and to draw conclusions at the panel level and at the university-wide level.

Relation to RQ08

RQ20 is a significantly broadened follow-up of the earlier research evaluations RQ08 and RQ14.

The intention of RQ20 is also to be more prospective than the earlier evaluations.

One of the self-evaluation tasks is to mention – if applicable – major changes that have been undertaken within the research environment during the last decade.

Relation to governmental evaluations

RQ20 is taking place at the same time as Swedish higher education policy is becoming more and more focused on the development and assessment of quality enhancement at universities, primarily by the Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) and with collective response from the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF). The frameworks that UKÄ and SUHF have produced indicate the importance of self-initiated inventories and evaluations. RQ20 therefore fulfils a clear role. In addition, RQ20 takes this ambition further. The aim is to highlight and critically evaluate the organisation's qualities and ambitions and how they can be further developed.

The RQ20 Phases

SPRING 2019
PLANNING PHASE

AUTUMN 2019
SELF-EVALUATION PHASE

SPRING 2020
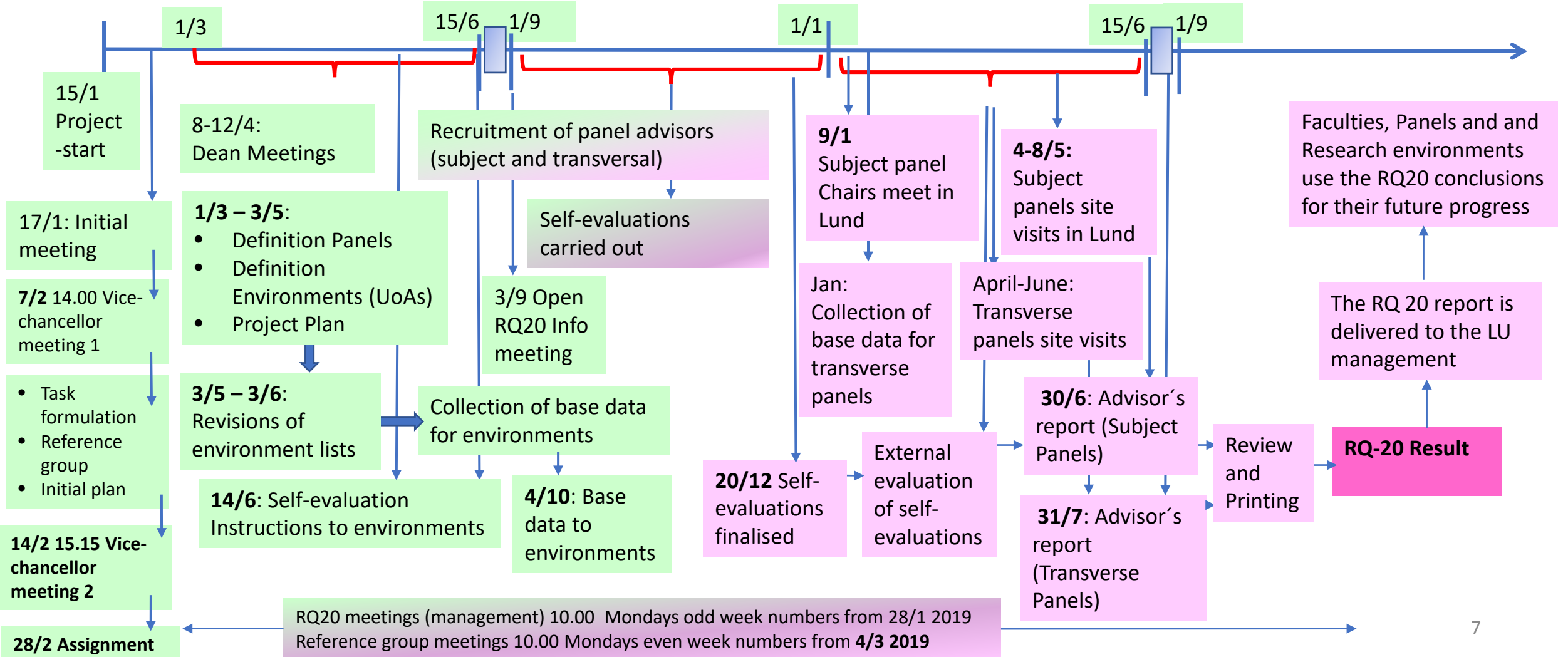EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT PHASE

AUTUMN 2020
FOLLOW-UP

RQ20 – GENERAL SCHEDULE

SPRING 2019 PLANNING PHASE

AUTUMN 2019 SELF-EVALUATION
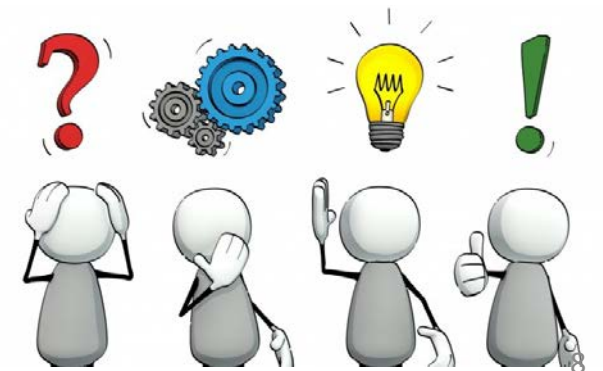
SPRING 2020 EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT

AUTUMN 2020 FOLLOW-UP

1/3 15/6 1/9 1/1 15/6 1/9

15/1 Project-start

8-12/4: Dean Meetings

17/1: Initial meeting

7/2 14.00 Vice-chancellor meeting 1

- Task formulation
- Reference group
- Initial plan

14/2 15.15 Vice-chancellor meeting 2

28/2 Assignment

1/3 – 3/5:
- Definition Panels
- Definition Environments (UoAs)
- Project Plan

3/5 – 3/6: Revisions of environment lists

14/6: Self-evaluation Instructions to environments

Recruitment of panel advisors (subject and transversal)

Self-evaluations carried out

3/9 Open RQ20 Info meeting

Collection of base data for environments

4/10: Base data to environments

9/1 Subject panel Chairs meet in Lund

Jan: Collection of base data for transverse panels

20/12 Self-evaluations finalised

External evaluation of self-evaluations

4-8/5: Subject panels site visits in Lund

April-June: Transverse panels site visits

30/6: Advisor´s report (Subject Panels)

31/7: Advisor´s report (Transverse Panels)

Review and Printing

Faculties, Panels and and Research environments use the RQ20 conclusions for their future progress

The RQ 20 report is delivered to the LU management

RQ-20 Result

RQ20 meetings (management) 10.00 Mondays odd week numbers from 28/1 2019
Reference group meetings 10.00 Mondays even week numbers from **4/3 2019**

Main goals:

1. Define RQ20 structure and research environments

2. Identify and formulate evaluation dimensions used for self assessment

3. Produce basic information on the units' funding and activities (base data)
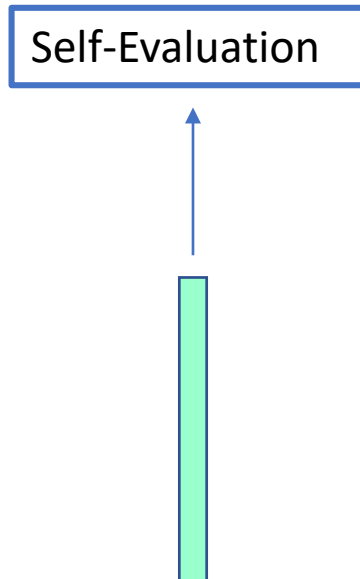
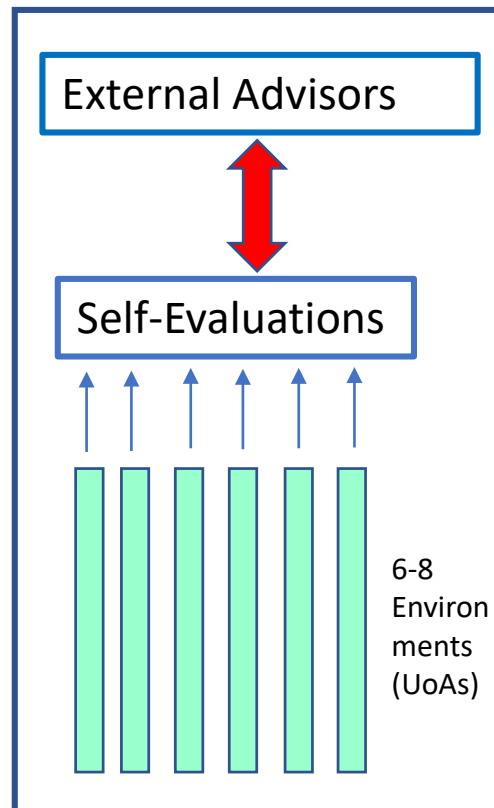## What is a RQ20 research environment (Unit of Assessment) ?

The *research environments (Units of assessment, UoA)* are primarily defined by the faculties and may in some cases be large and broad (which may be hard to break down into smaller units) and in other cases clearly defined. The definition of the research environments is decided on by the faculties in consultation with the RQ20 office. **We expect research environments to be homogenous and easily recognisable by those involved, but not too small.**
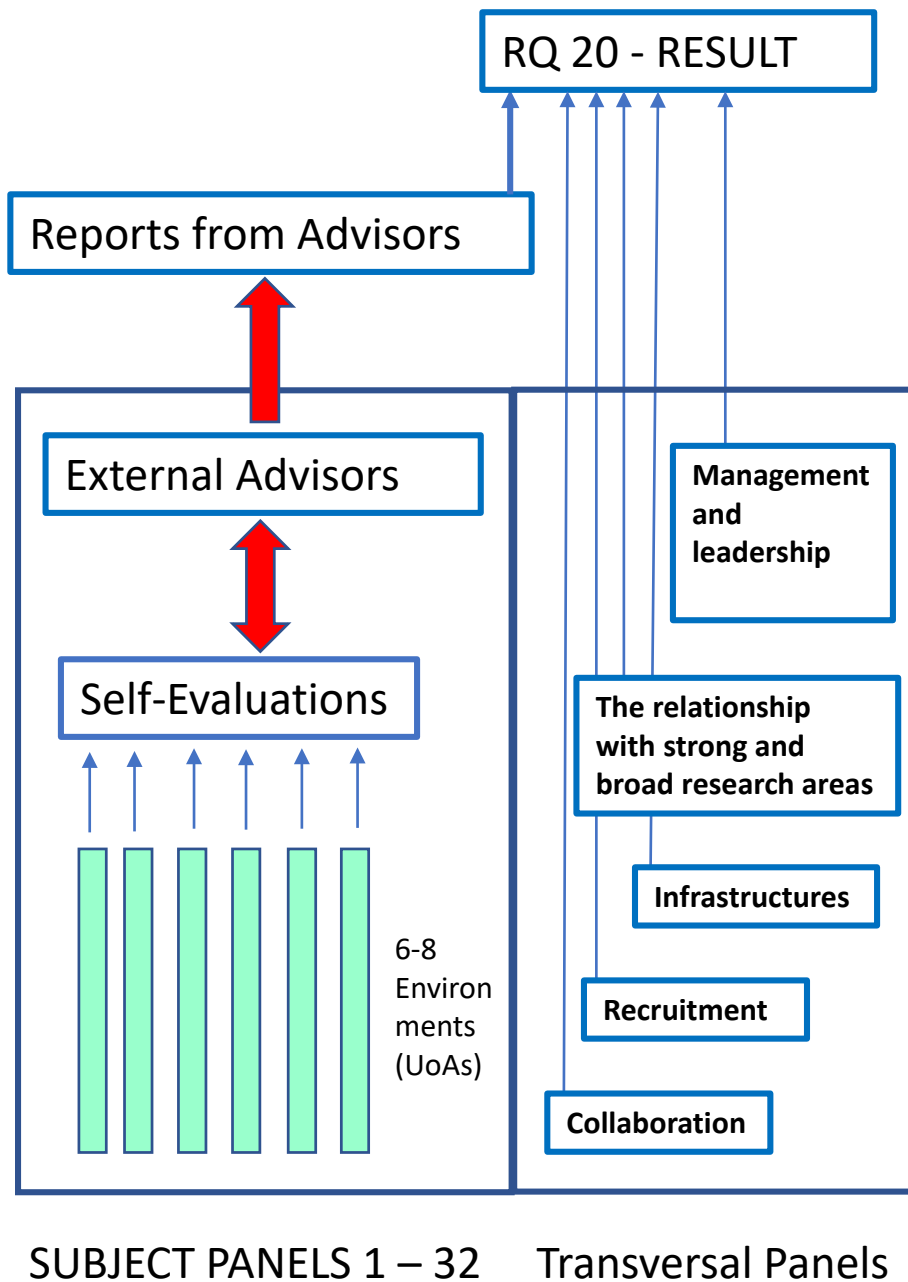
We are aware that this homogeneity is sometimes very hard to achieve!

Self-Evaluation

What is a RQ20 panel ?

The term (subject) panel is used in this project description for both a group of **linked research environments** during the self-evaluation phase (32 in all) and for the same group of research environments during the external assessment phase.

RQ 20 - RESULT

Reports from Advisors

External Advisors

Self-Evaluations

6-8 Environments (UoAs)

SUBJECT PANELS 1 – 32

Management and leadership

The relationship with strong and broad research areas

Infrastructures

Recruitment

Collaboration

Transversal Panels

32 + 5 Panels
Panel turnover (Panel 1-32) c:a 200 Mkr
6-8 Research Environments (UoAs)/Panel
20-25 Researchers/UoA → 100 – 150 Researchers/Panel →
Approx. 4000-5000 researchers in total

Approx. 4-6 Advisors / Panel →
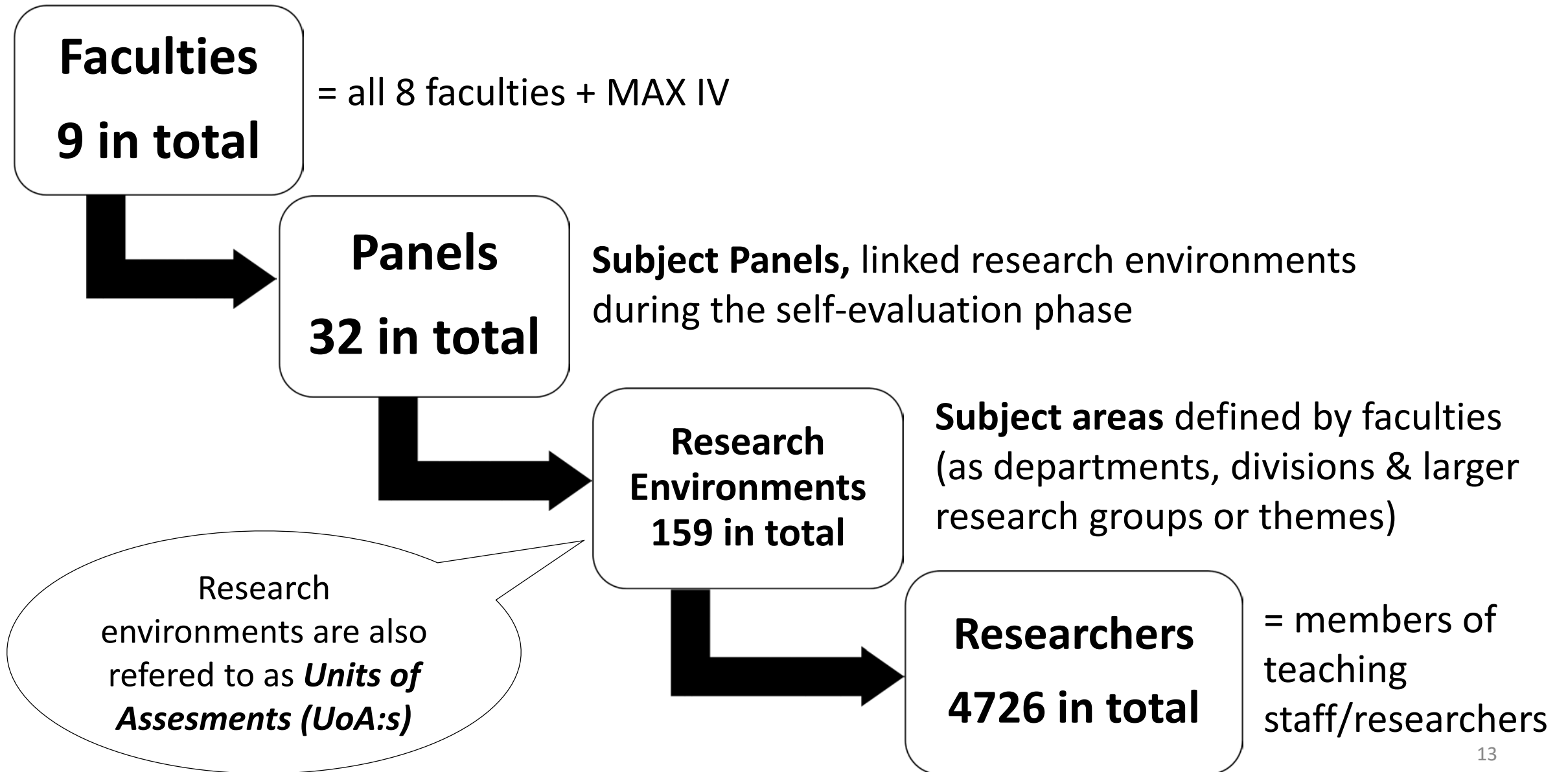Around 200 Advisors in total

National Comparison (not exact)

	SLU KON18	UU KOF17	GU RED19	LU RQ20
No Panels	11	19	42	35+5
No Advisors	100	130	130	200
No Researchers ~	2000	4000	4000	5000

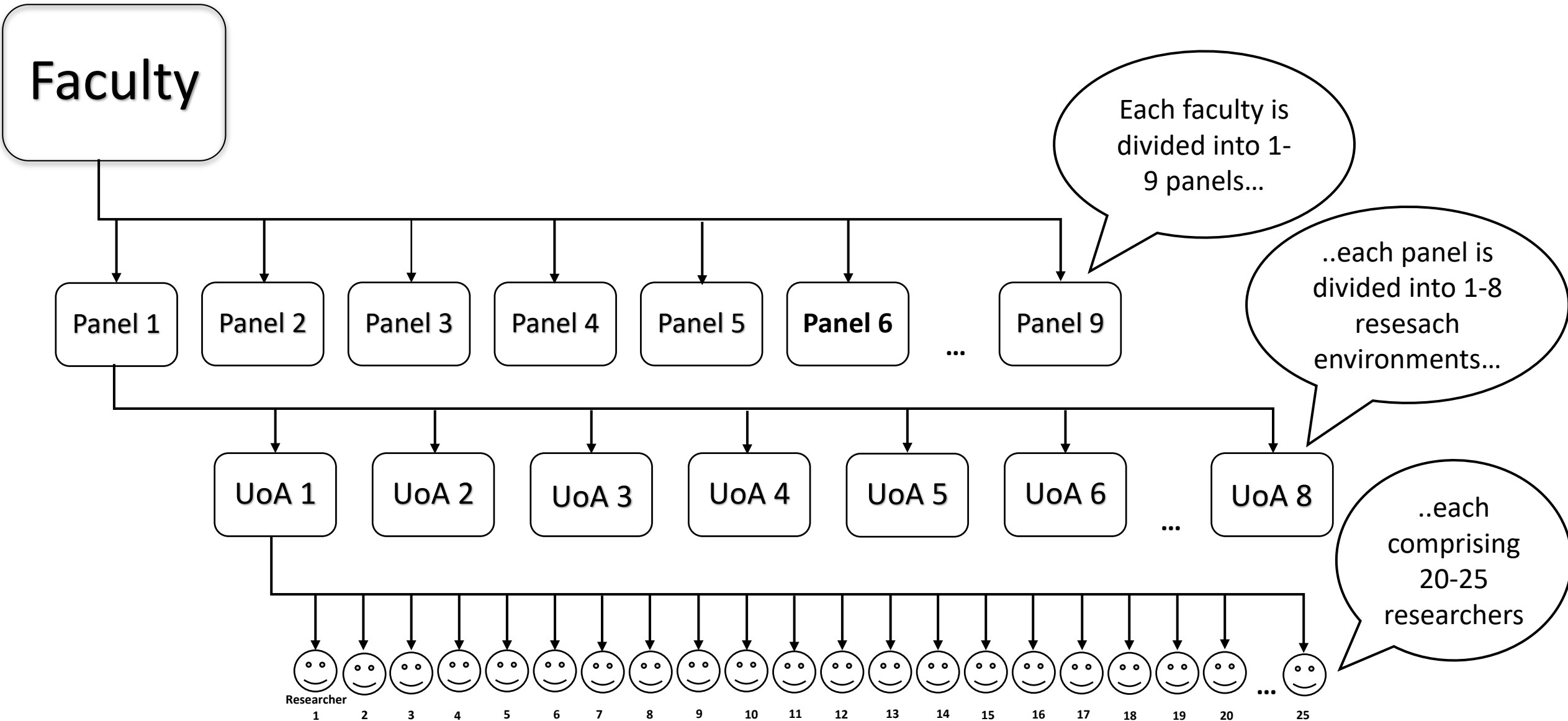| Employees at Lund University	
Total Number Approximatively	7 400
A Professors	800
B Teachers, Researchers and doctorate students	4 100
C Technical and Administrative Staff	2 500

Research Staff A+B above per faculty	Economy	Central Admin.	Humanites and Theology	Law	Arts	LTH Technical University	Medicine	MAX IV	Science.	Social Sciences	LU Special Branches	TOT
Total Approximatively	315	4	427	112	73	1205	1152	91	815	495	40	4726
Fraction	0,07	0,00	0,09	0,02	0,02	0,25	0,24	0,02	0,17	0,10	0,01	1,00
Number of panels out of 35 panels in total from fraction above	2,33	0,03	3,16	0,83	0,54	8,92	8,53	0,67	6,04	3,67	0,30	35,02
Final number of panels out of 35 panels in total	2	0	3	1	1	9	9	1	6	3	0	35

RQ20 structure at University level

Faculties

9 in total

= all 8 faculties + MAX IV

Panels

32 in total

Subject Panels, linked research environments during the self-evaluation phase

Research Environments

159 in total

Subject areas defined by faculties (as departments, divisions & larger research groups or themes)

Research environments are also refered to as *Units of Assesments (UoA:s)*

Researchers

4726 in total

= members of teaching staff/researchers

RQ20 structure at faculty-level

Faculty

Each faculty is divided into 1-9 panels…

Panel 1 | Panel 2 | Panel 3 | Panel 4 | Panel 5 | **Panel 6** | … | Panel 9

..each panel is divided into 1-8 resesach environments…

UoA 1 | UoA 2 | UoA 3 | UoA 4 | UoA 5 | UoA 6 | … | UoA 8

..each comprising 20-25 researchers

Researcher 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 … 25

For example...

Joint Faculties of Humanities & Theology

Panel H1

Research Environments (UoA:s)

1. Ark-Antik
2. Hist
3. Kultur1
4. Kultur2
5. Kultur3
6. Uvet1
7. Uvet2
8. Sol1

Panel H2

Research Environments (UoA:s)

1. Sol2
2. Sol3
3. Sol4
4. Sol5
5. Sol6
6. Sol7
7. Fil1
8. Fil2

Panel T

Research Environments (UoA:s)

1. Ctr1
2. Ctr2
3. Ctr3
4. Ctr4

AUTUMN 2019
SELF-EVALUATION PHASE

Self-Evaluation

The self-evaluation instructions are delivered to the research environments by June 14 and the process itself started in mid-August.

The self-evaluation is governed by Appendix 1 to the Project Plan and comprises reflexions on the following themes:

A. *Overarching summary*
B1. *Leadership*
B2. *Collegial culture*
B3. *Quality ecosystem*
B4. *Transversal themes*
C. *Final Remarks*

- When responding to the questions A-C above, please refer to **the background material** (financial conditions, publication patterns, impact) when appropriate.
- The self-evaluation should not exceed **7000 words, excluding figures**.
- Last day for submission of the self-evaluation report from each research environment to the RQ20 office is **December 20 2019.**

Base Data / Background Material

Why?
Supports analysis about the research quality and future developments within the research environments (when appropriate). It can be understood as a backdrop to the self-evaluations.
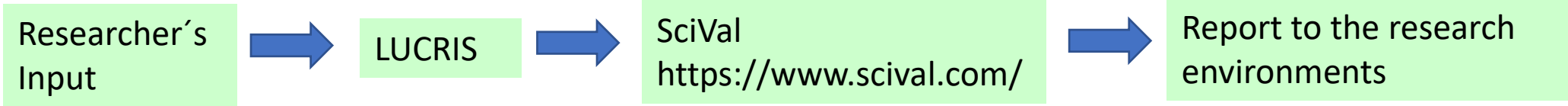
How?
Is produced on a research environment basis by the University Library, Lucris-team and Economists.

What?
1. *Financial summary, 2018* (e.g. resources used for undergraduate education, direct government funding of research, and external funding of research)
2. *Publication patterns, 2014-2018* (e.g. articles, books, book chapters, and reports and other publications and forms of research outlets, as well as a *bibliometric analysis* of citation patterns/impact)

When?
Made available late September/early October

Researcher´s Input → LUCRIS → SciVal https://www.scival.com/ → Report to the research environments

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Overall
P	Number of Publications per year					
C	Number of citations per year					
C/P	Average Number of citations per publication and year					
Top 10%/1%	Fraction of publications per year that is part of the 10%/1% most cited publications in their field (according to Scopus classification of publications/Journals)					

SPRING 2020
EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT PHASE

During Spring 2020, External advisors will work with the self-evaluations from the 32 subject panels.

Suggestions for external advisors was submitted by the faculties, panels and/or research environments during May – August 2019

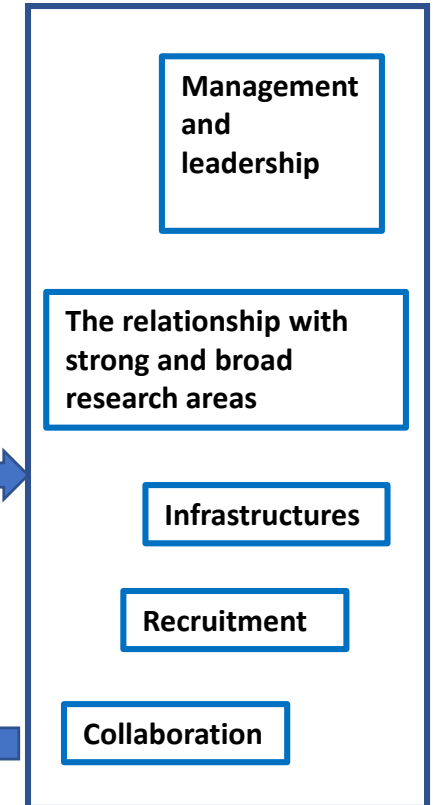Identification of all external advisors will be ready by December 2019.

However, a university is more than the sum of its parts !

The five **Transversal Panels** will cover important issues that are critical to the university in its entirety – issues that pertain to the standing and further development of the research environments, and subsequently for the university as a whole.

These panels **will start to work once the self-evaluations are ready**
and they will obtain their information from:

- Selected parts of the the self-evaluations made in the 35 "organic" panels
- Other sources (such as regulatory documents, policy documents, results of internal/external evaluations) made available by the RQ20 office.

- We estimate 5 Expert Advisors per panel
- Recruitment starts October 1 2019
- 2-3 Days site visit per panel during Spring 2020 (not May 4-8)
- The reports from the transveral panels will be part of the RQ20 result

Management and leadership

The relationship with strong and broad research areas

Infrastructures

Recruitment

Collaboration

9th of January: Preparatory meeting with panel chairs

- Each external panel hold one appointed chair person = 32 chair persons in total

- These are tasked with:
  - ✓ Coordinating the evaluation work within their panel before/during the site visit
  - ✓ Overseeing the writing process of the report during/after the site visit

- Aim of meeting is to inform and prepare chair members about the evaluation process:
  - ✓ Provide information about the project
  - ✓ Clarify expectations/responsabilities (on both sides)
  - ✓ Answer questions

Transversal panel site visits 2020:

Management and leadership	June 1-2
The relationship with strong and broad research areas	May 26-27
Infrastructures	April 20-21
Recruitment	May 18-19
Collaboration	June 9-10

4th-8th of May: Site visit by external subject panel advisors

- **RQ20:s major event!**

- Main aim is for the external panels to:

    ✓ Assess the self-evaluations and meet with the respective research environments
    ✓ Begin the process of writing a report comprising their impressions, their feedback and suggestions for improvements (deadline 30th of June)
    ✓ Hopefully, enjoy doing it!