Informal Intergovernmental Relations in Land Administration Systems

Christian Clausen
M.Sc., PhD-student
Aalborg University & the National Survey and Cadastre, Denmark

The trigger

- e - Title registration system in Denmark
- Representatives from the Danish cadastre and the Danish land book
- Different visions, do not speak the same “language”, technical point of view vs. legal point of view
  → hard to develop new system

A theoretical angle

- Constraints are the term used when referring to the rules that shape human interaction

  Douglas North 1990

- Constraints can both be formal and informal

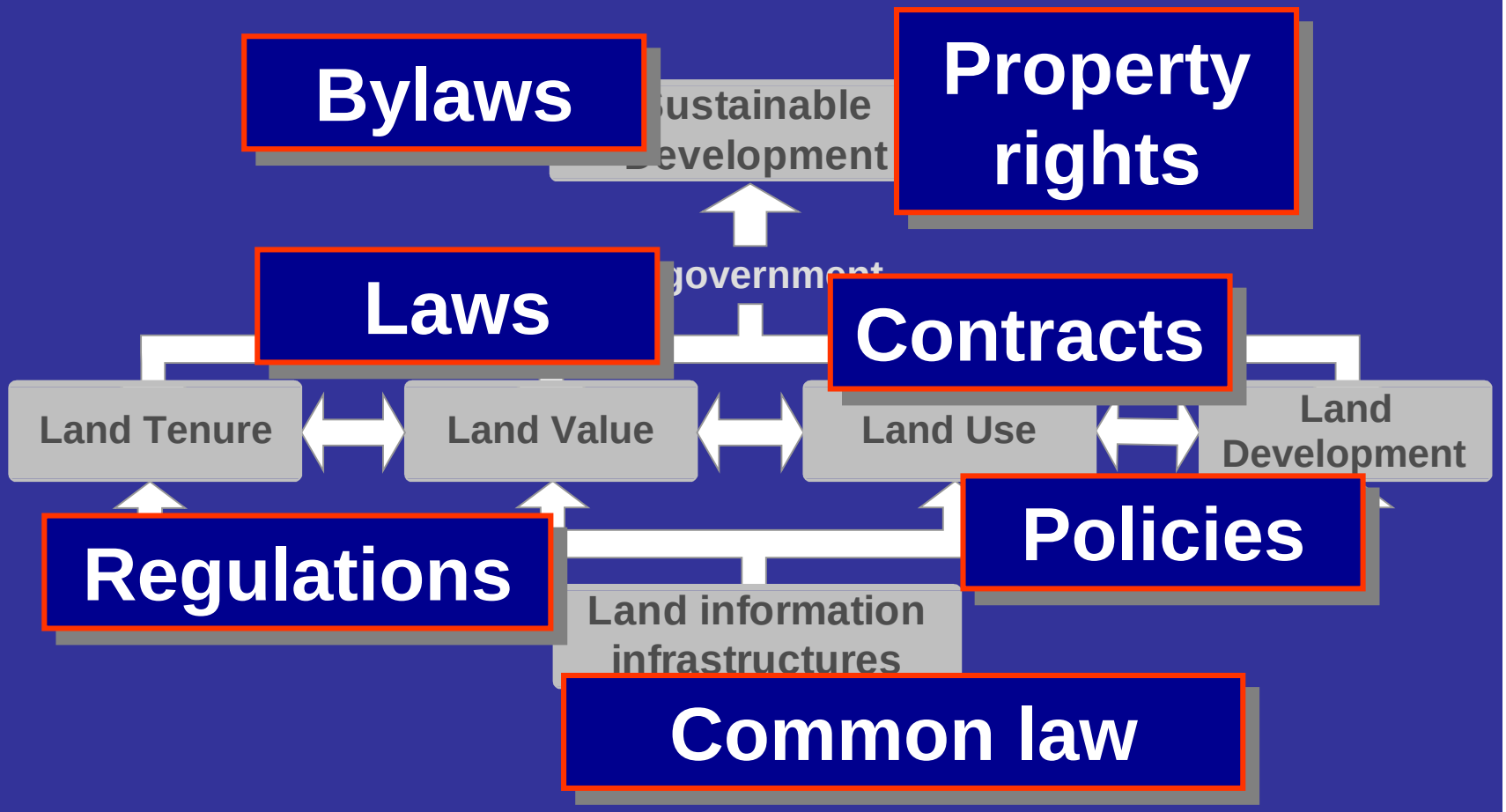
- Rules are prescriptions that forbid, permit, or require some action or outcome and authorize sanctions if the rules are not followed

  Elinor Ostrom 1994

Formal vs. informal constraints

- Formal constraints are written rules
  - Political (and legal rules), economic rules, and contracts

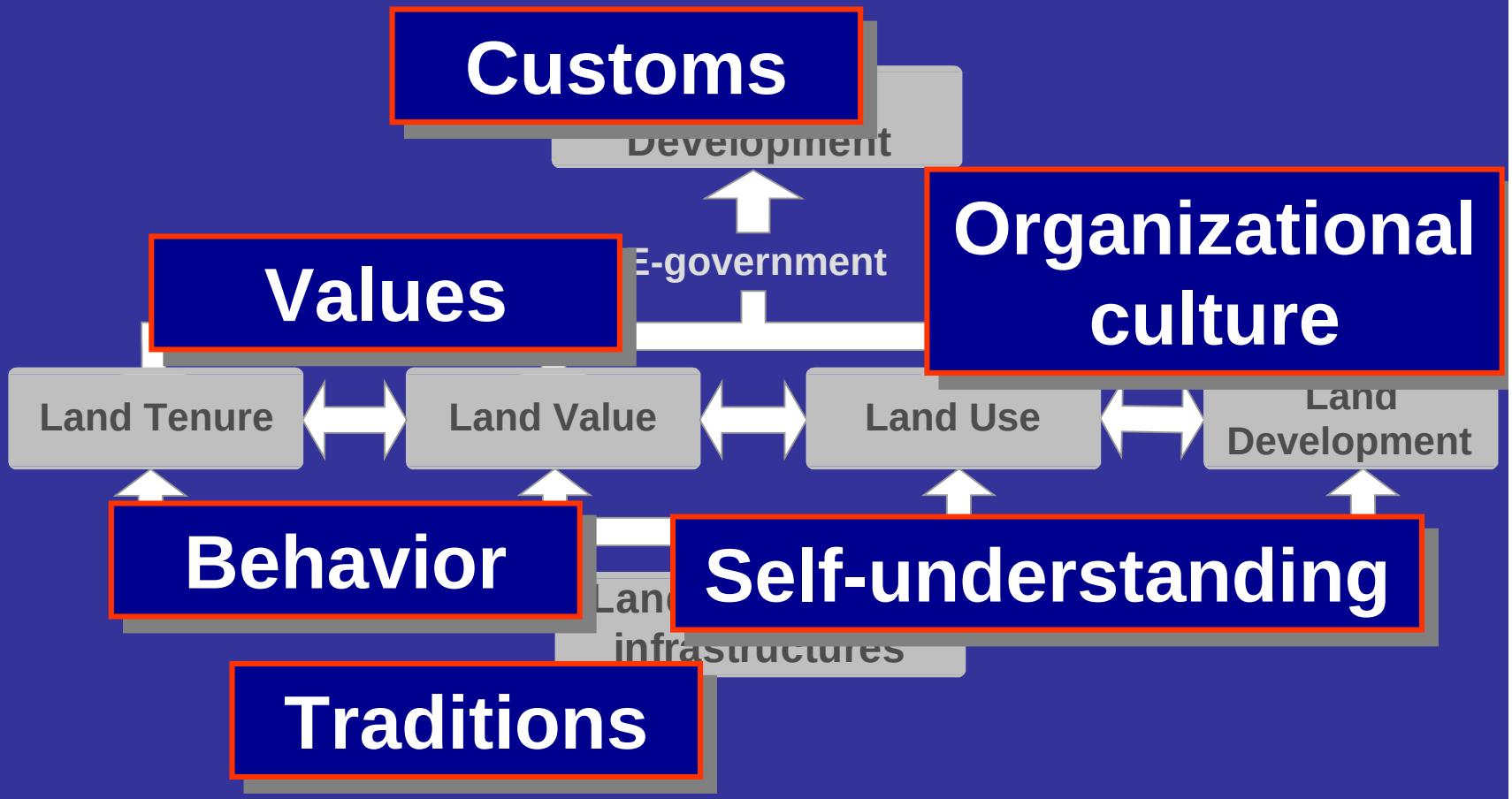
Formal constraints



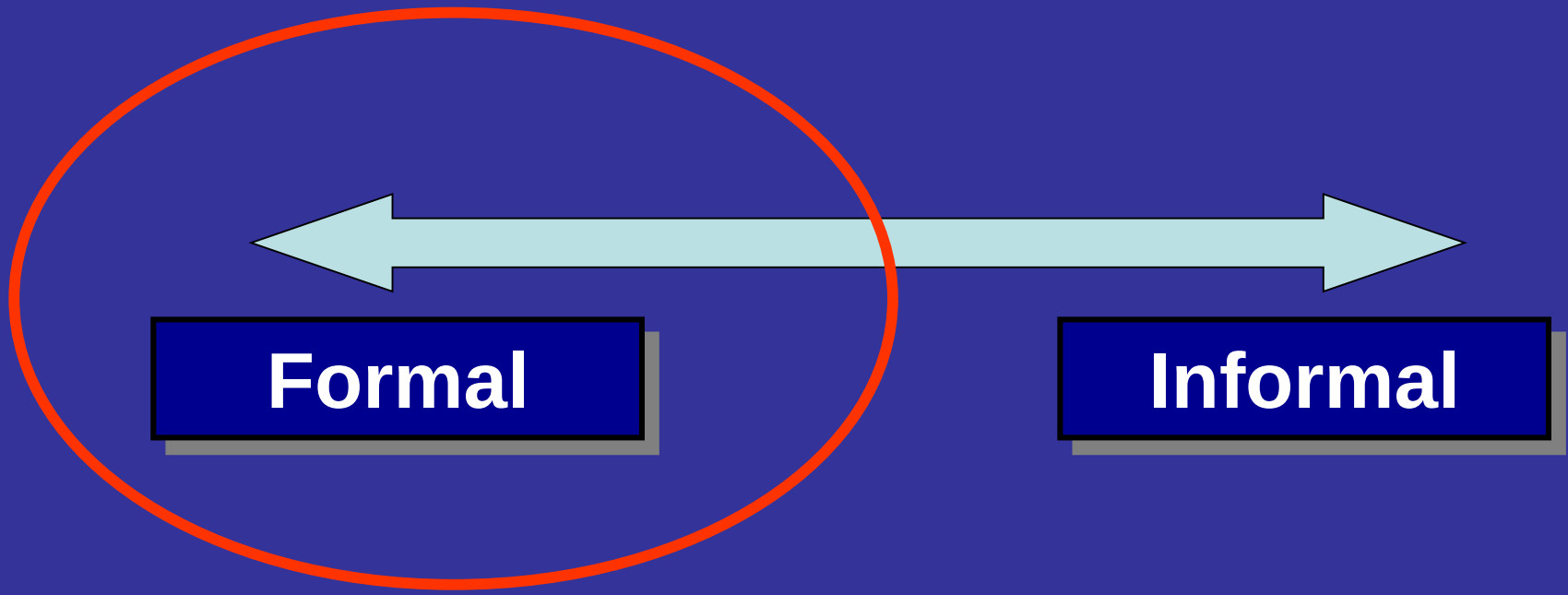
Formal vs. informal constraints

- Informal constraints are the “rest”
  - Codes of conduct, norms of behavior and conventions

Informal constraints



Focus on formal constraints



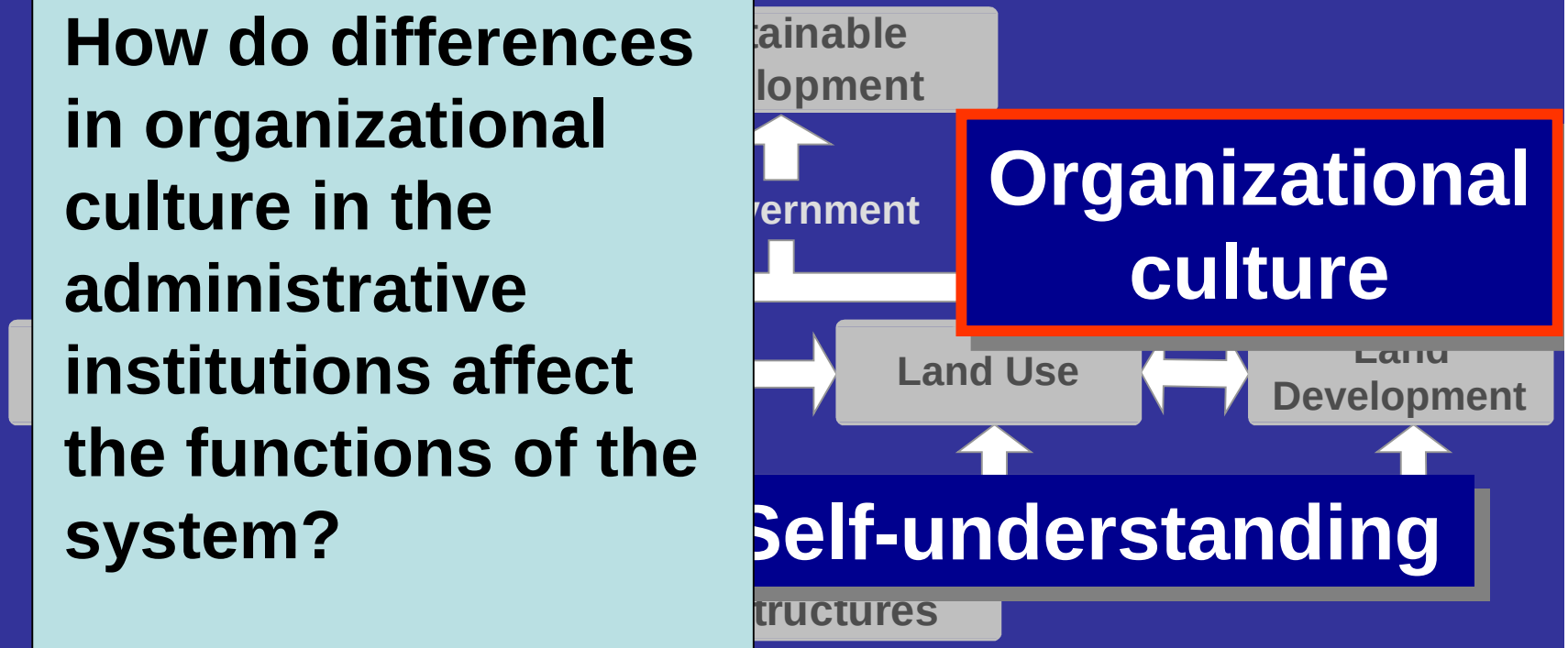
Overall research question

- Are informal constraints important to the administrative function of land administration systems? (How and why?)
- How can the structure of informal constraints in land administration systems supplement the existing understanding of the overall land management paradigm?

Land administration system
- Informal constraints

How do differences in organizational culture in the administrative institutions affect the functions of the system?

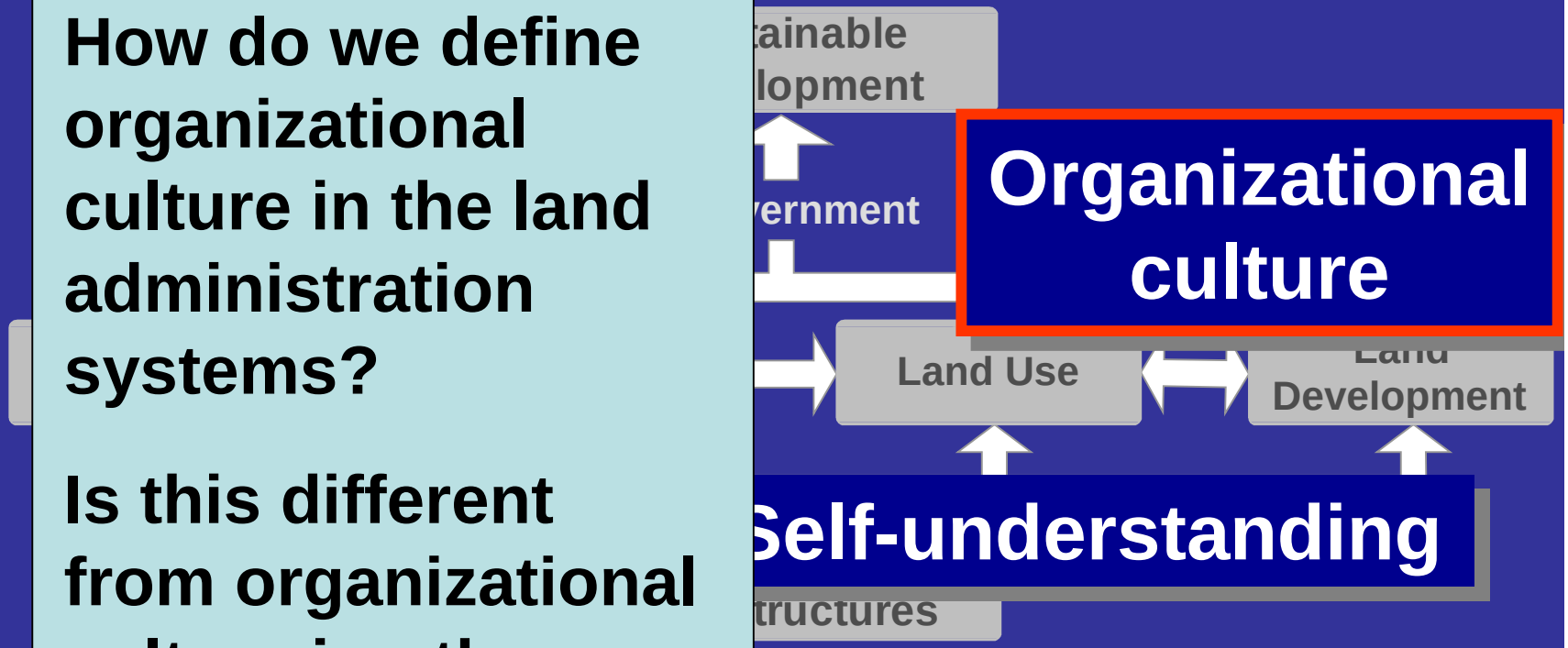
(Danish example)



Land administration system
- Informal constraints

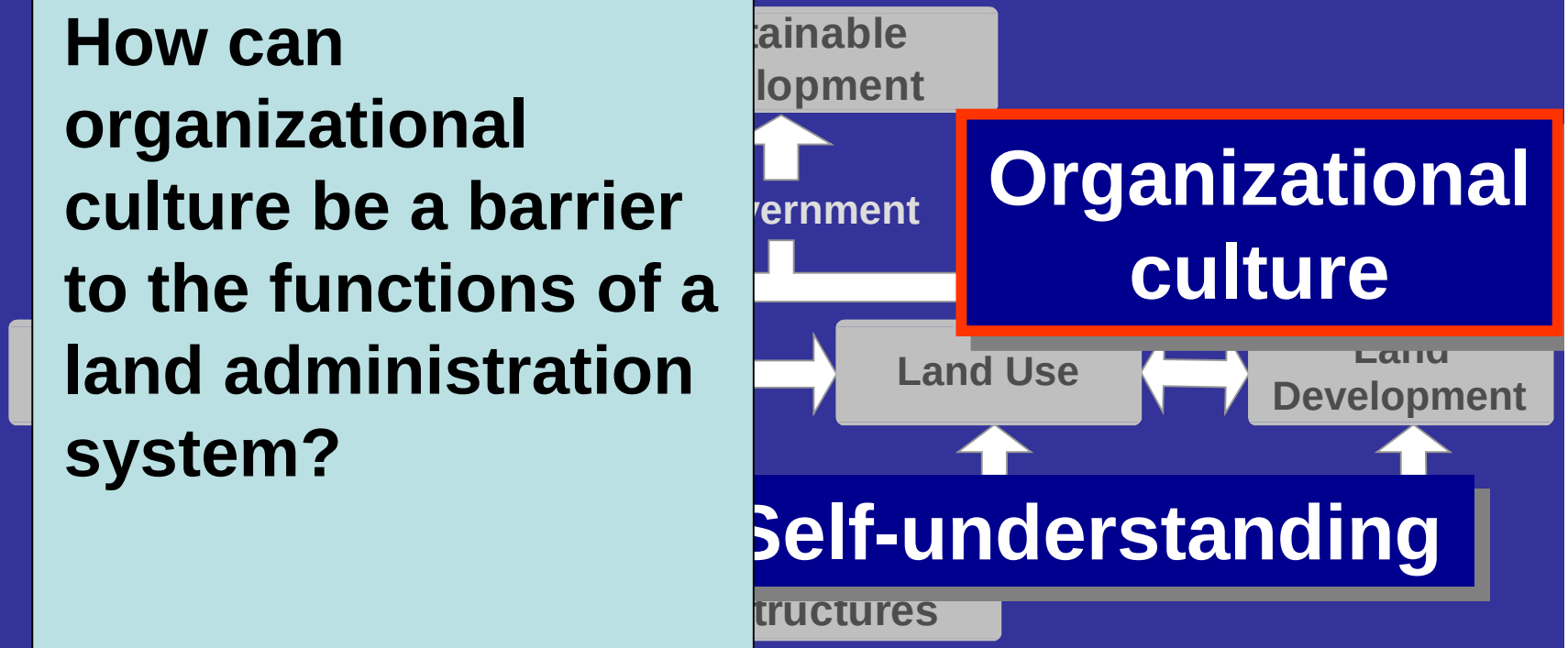
How do we define organizational culture in the land administration systems?

Is this different from organizational culture in other administrative systems?



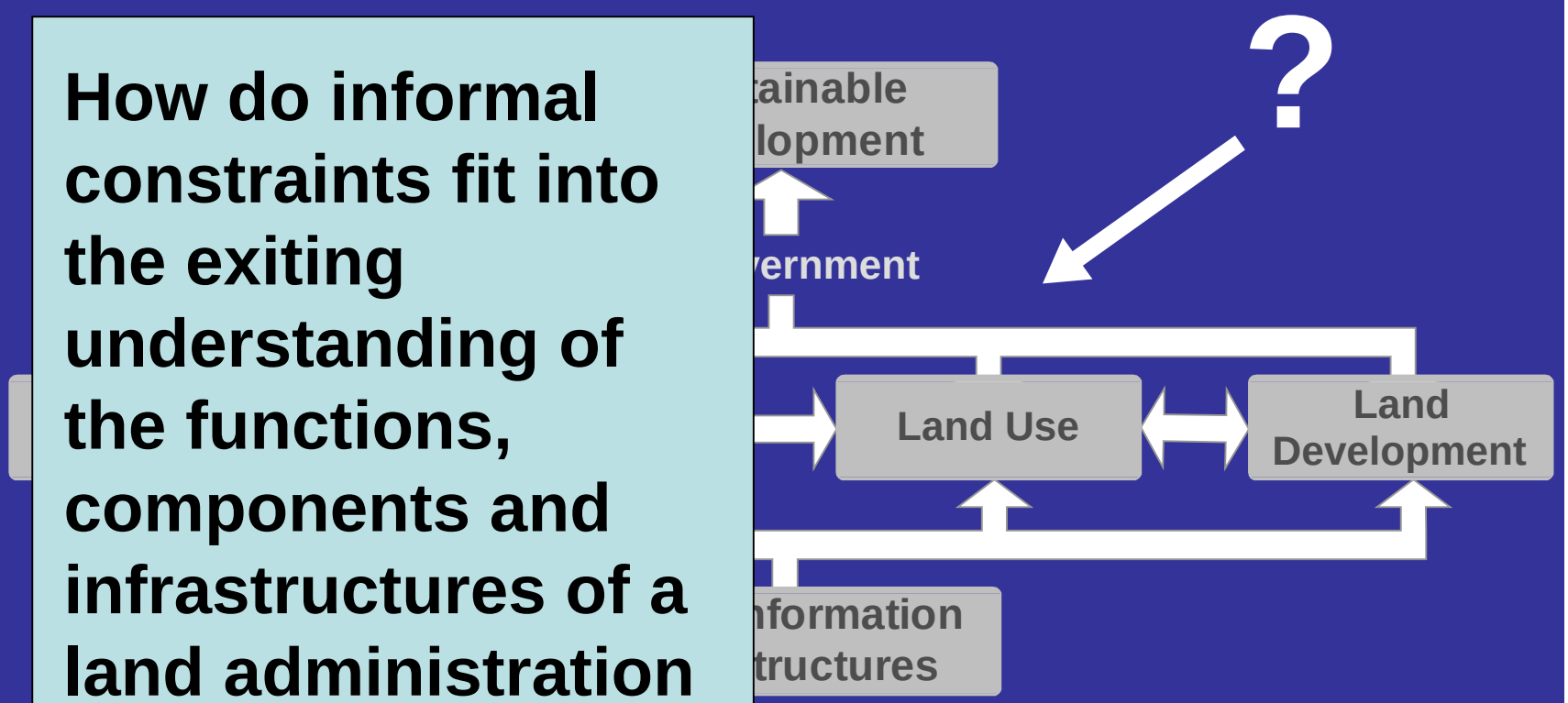
Land administration system
- Informal constraints

How can organizational culture be a barrier to the functions of a land administration system?

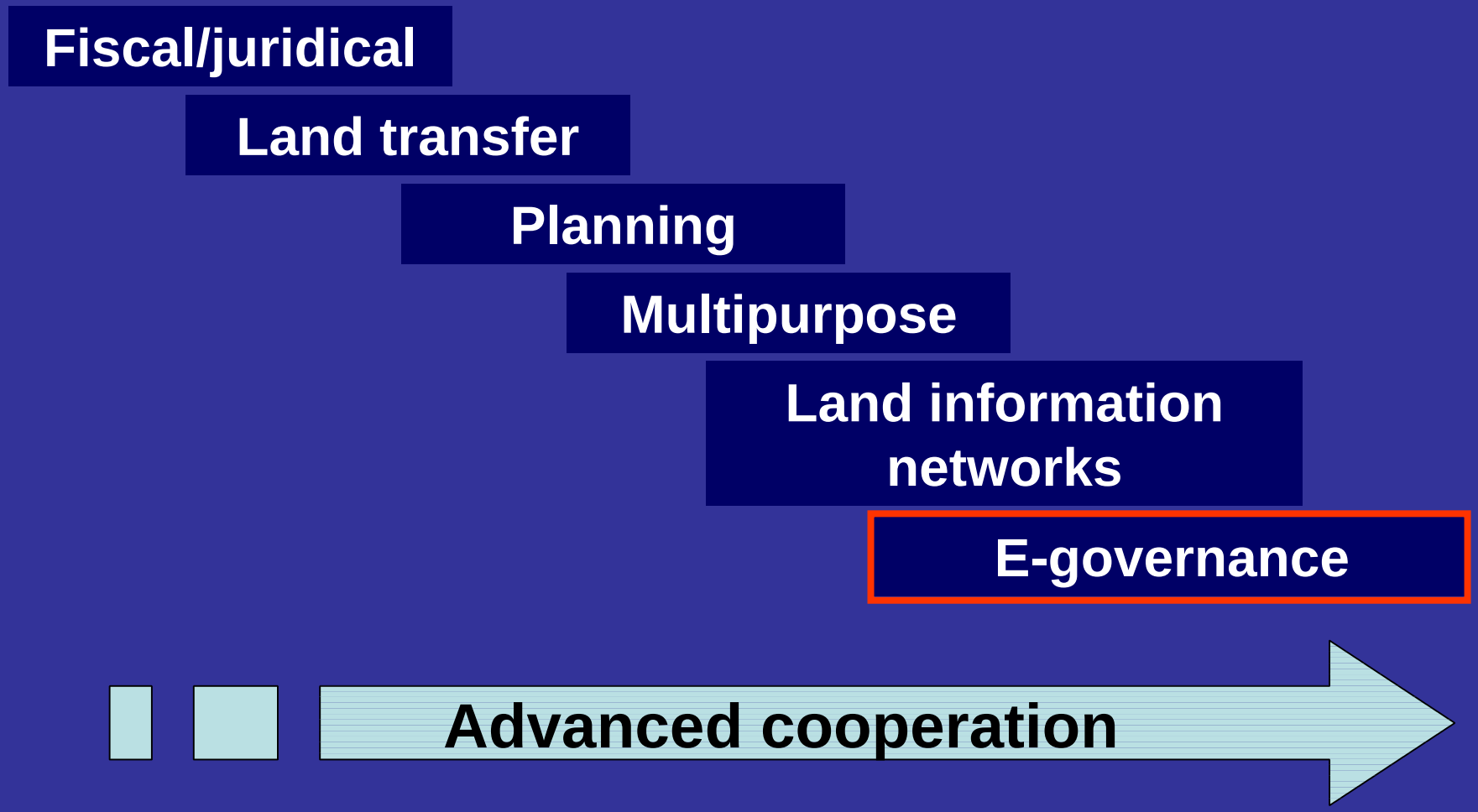


Land administration system
- Informal constraints

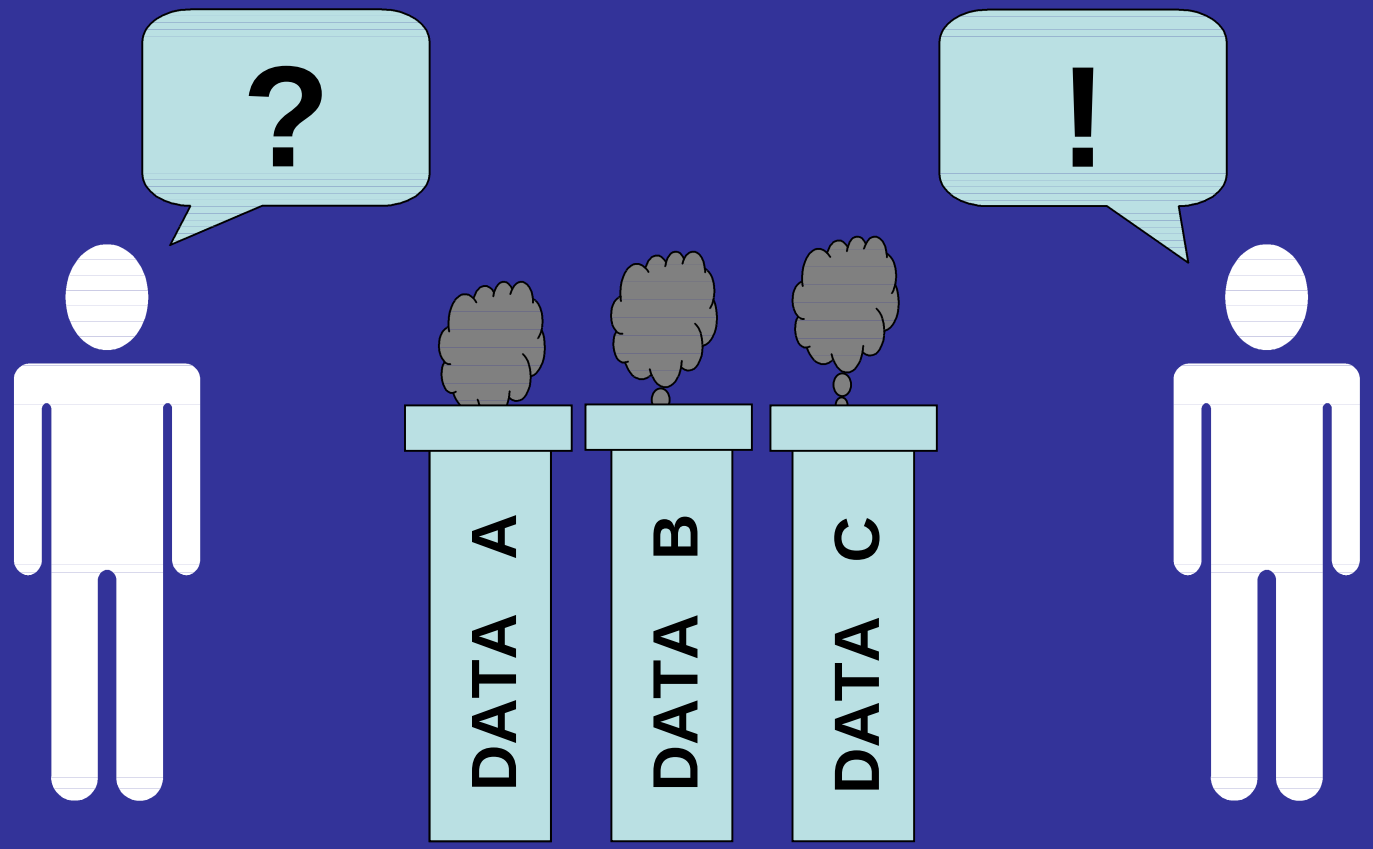
How do informal constraints fit into the exiting understanding of the functions, components and infrastructures of a land administration system?



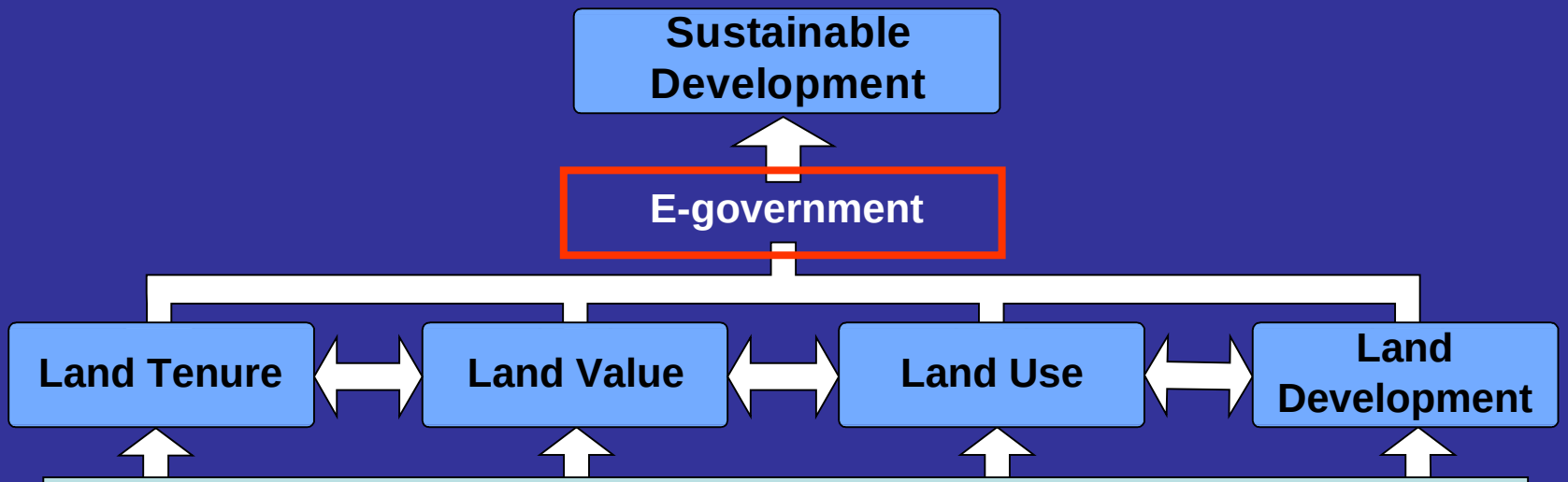
Why is this interesting?



Abandon the isolated “stovepipes” of data



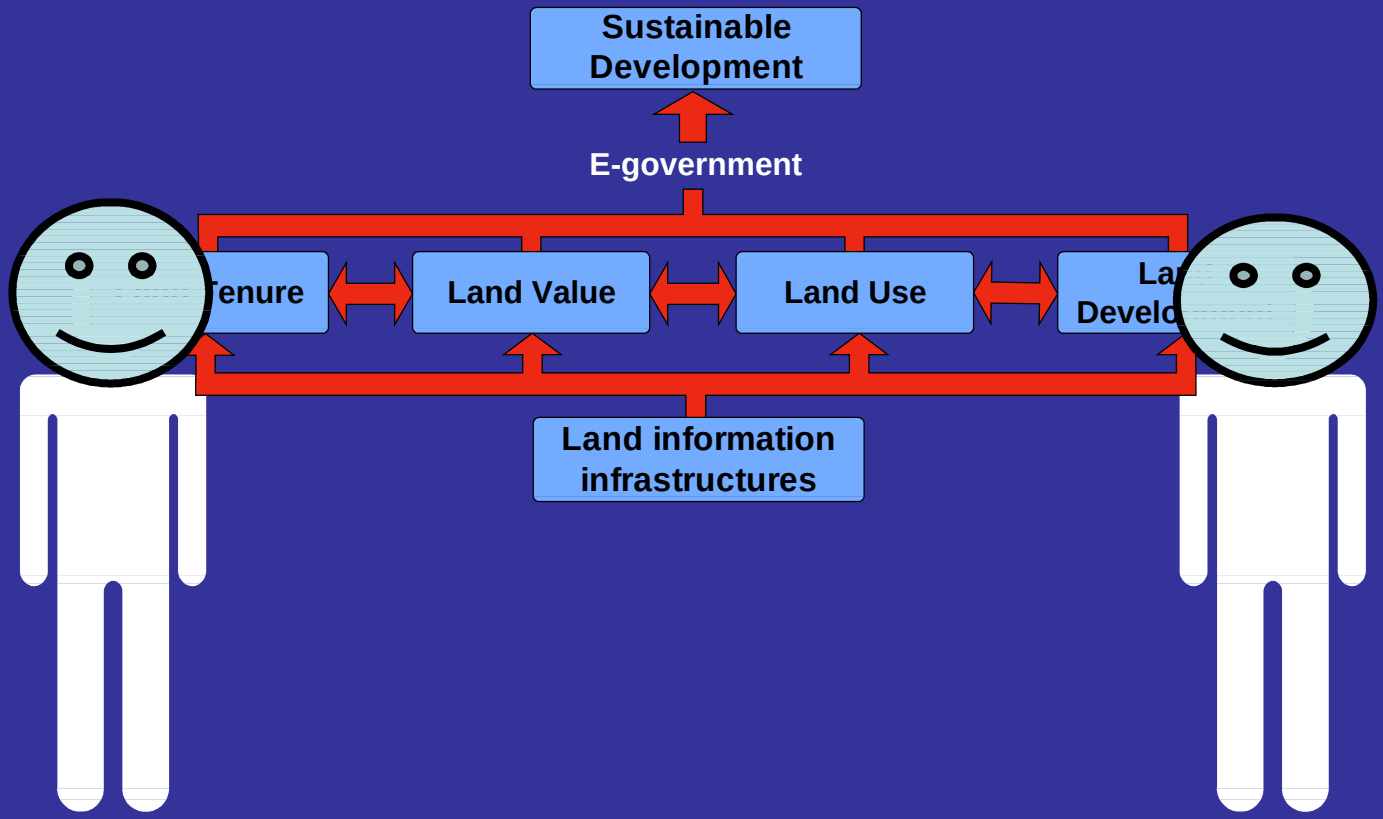
E-governance foster large extend of cooperation



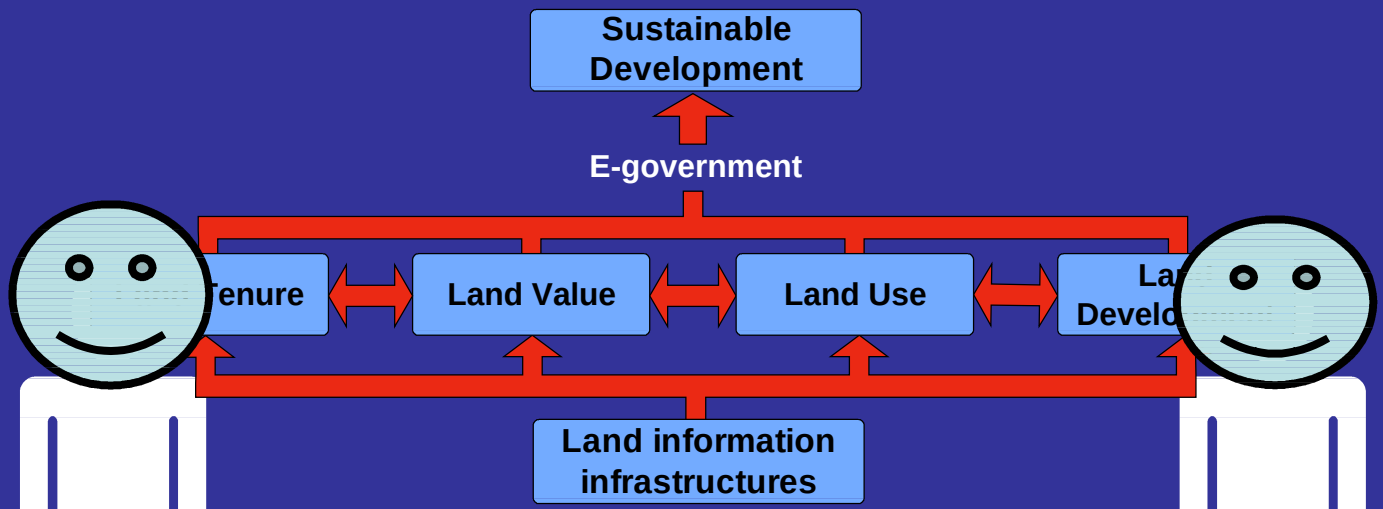
Effective exchange of geo-related information among the actors in land administration systems

Integrated management of the future development of land administration systems

Build cooperation through understanding

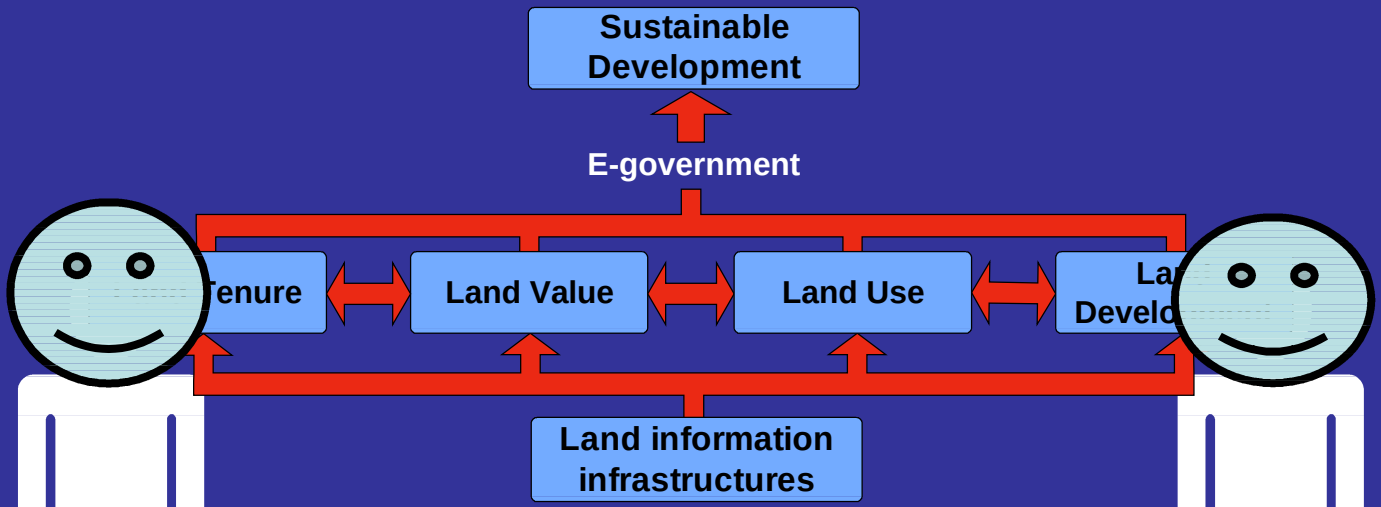


Build cooperation through understanding



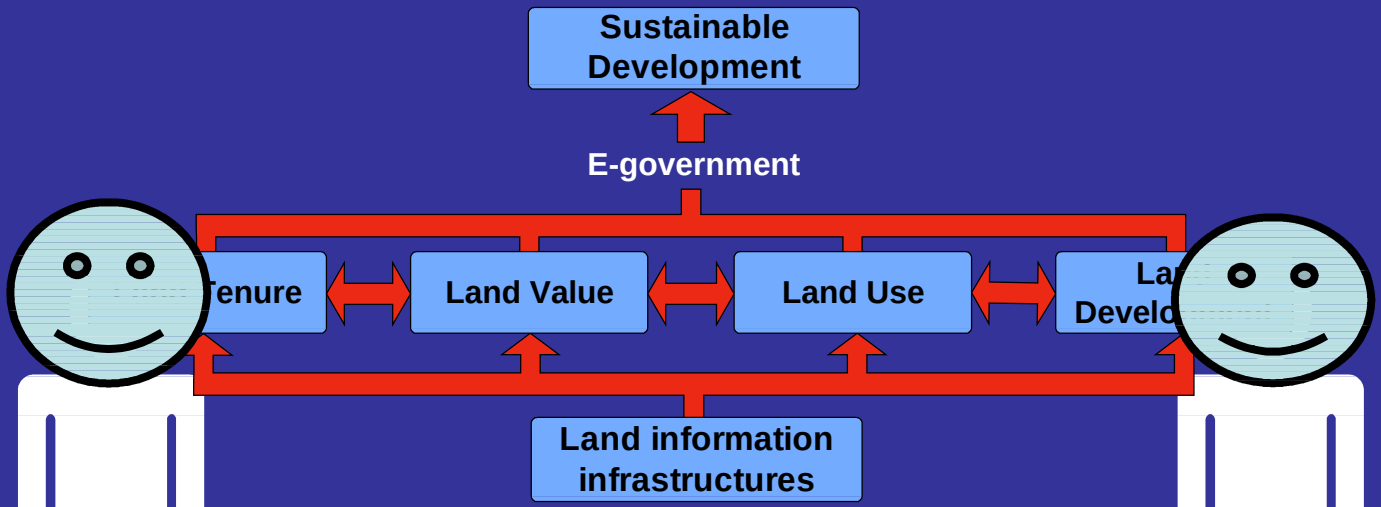
In a cooperative system formal rules are important

Build cooperation through understanding



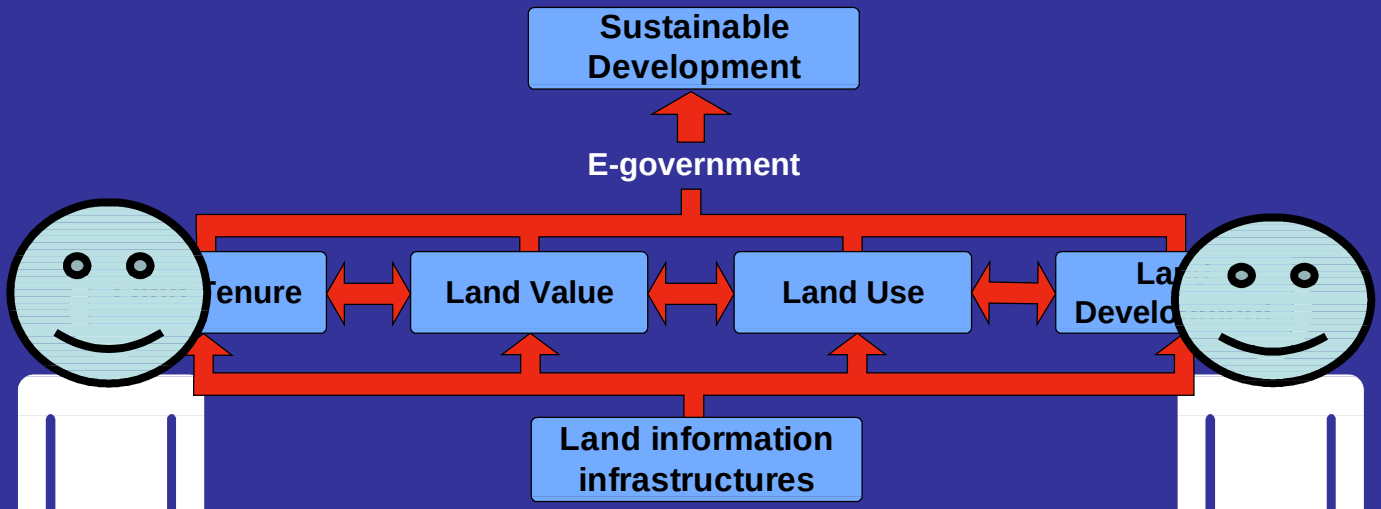
The legislation, regulations and contracts must be efficient, consistent and contribute to cooperation

Build cooperation through understanding



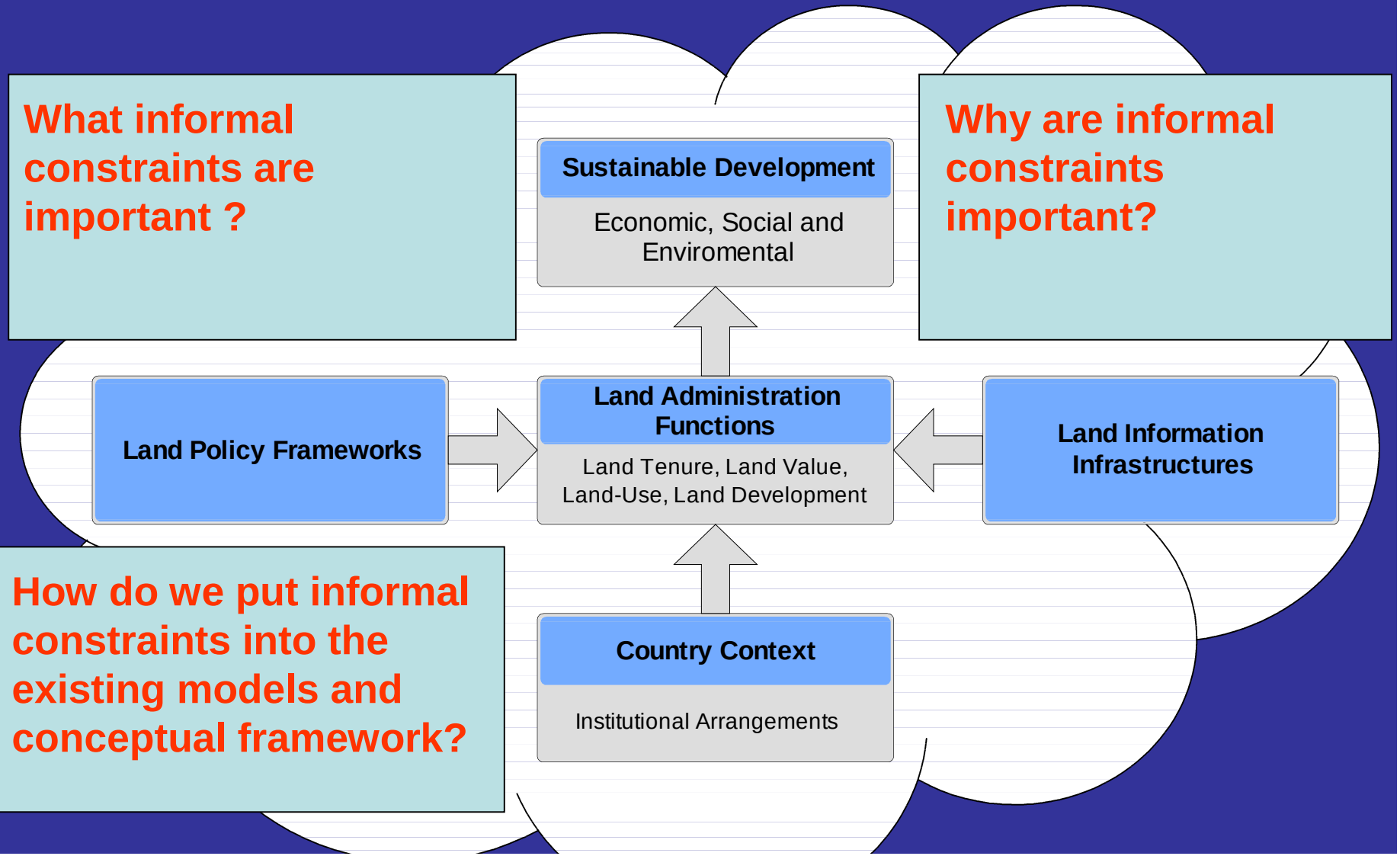
My hypothesis is that this is not enough!

Build cooperation through understanding



There must be a cooperative culture in the system, the different institutions must share the same overall vision and "speak the same language"

Focus on informal constraints is a supplement to the existing understanding



Thank you