



**Participation in monitoring sustainable development**  
*Sustainable Development in Policy Assessment*  
*Methods, Challenges and Policy Impacts*  
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sustainable development



## Stakeholder participation in monitoring

Why ? Sustainable development is a contested concept

- It's ambiguous, subjective and normative
- Therefore: stakeholder involvement is necessary

Forms of participation

1. Information (*we tell you*)
2. Consultation (*you tell us*)
3. Participation (*dialogue*)

(Rowe and Frewer,2005)



## Participation in monitoring

Step 1: stakeholder selection

Step 2: deciding what to monitor

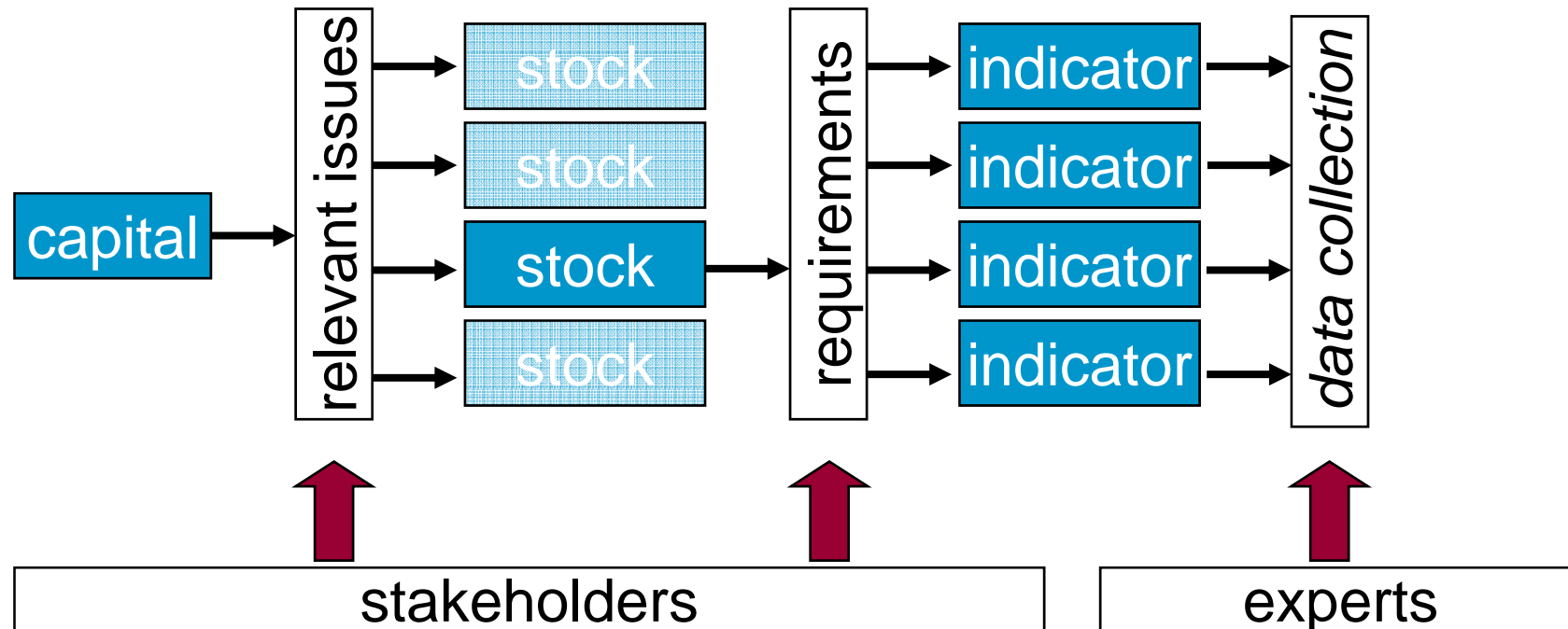
Step 3: weighing and aggregating data

Step 4: publication and debate

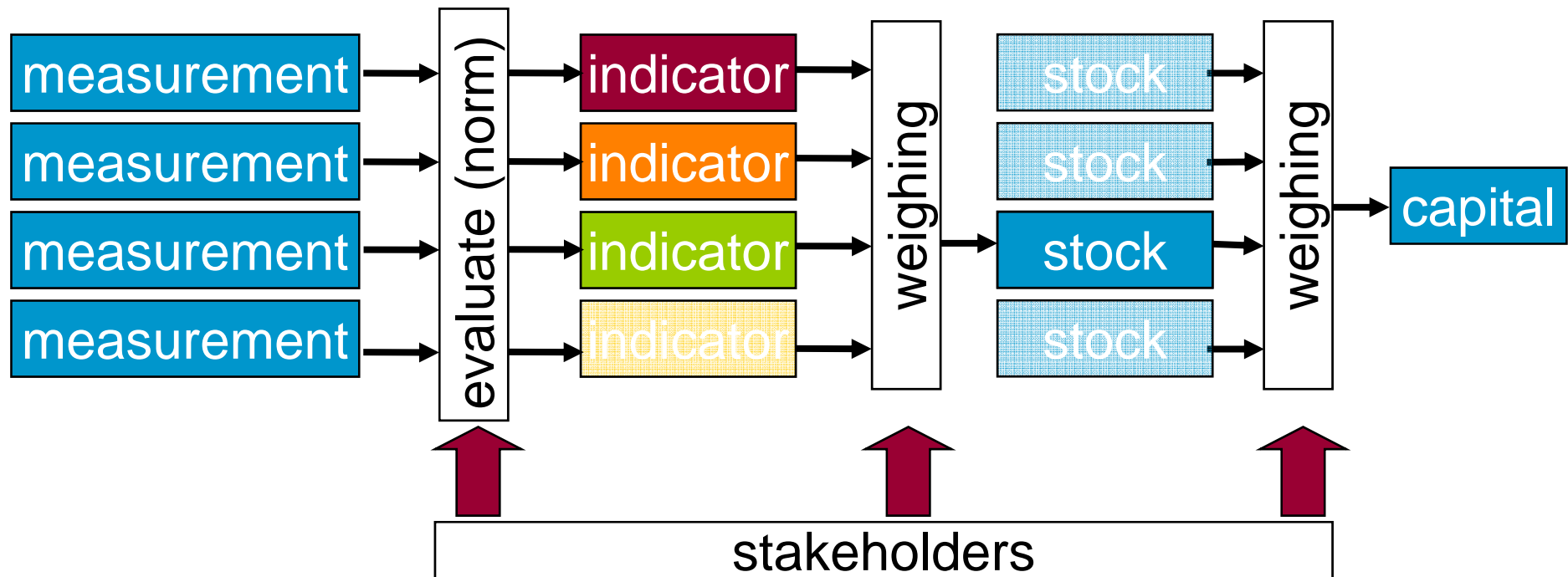
Tensions / dilemma's in all four steps:

- Which stakeholders to select?
- Long-term strategy goals and short-term policy and implementation
- Tension between scientific rigor and recognition by end users
- Transfer of results to groups of stakeholder who did not participate
- Independent role of evaluators

## Participation in monitoring: what to monitor



## Phase 2: aggregating and weighing data





Year	Region (Province / City)	Context	Form of Participation
2001 / 2002	North-Brabant	Monitoring & Debate	Workshops & presentations / debates
2003	Eindhoven	Monitoring	Workshops
2004	Flevoland/ Zeeland/ Limburg	Monitoring	Workshops
2006	North-Brabant	Monitoring	Workshops, survey, interviews, presentations & debates
2008	Utrecht	Debate & Monitoring	Workshops, survey, presentations & debates
Ongoing	Haaglanden / Waalwijk / Oisterwijk		





## Results from participation process

Strong public and administrative support for result

- Widely accepted framework for monitoring SD
- Development of a common language

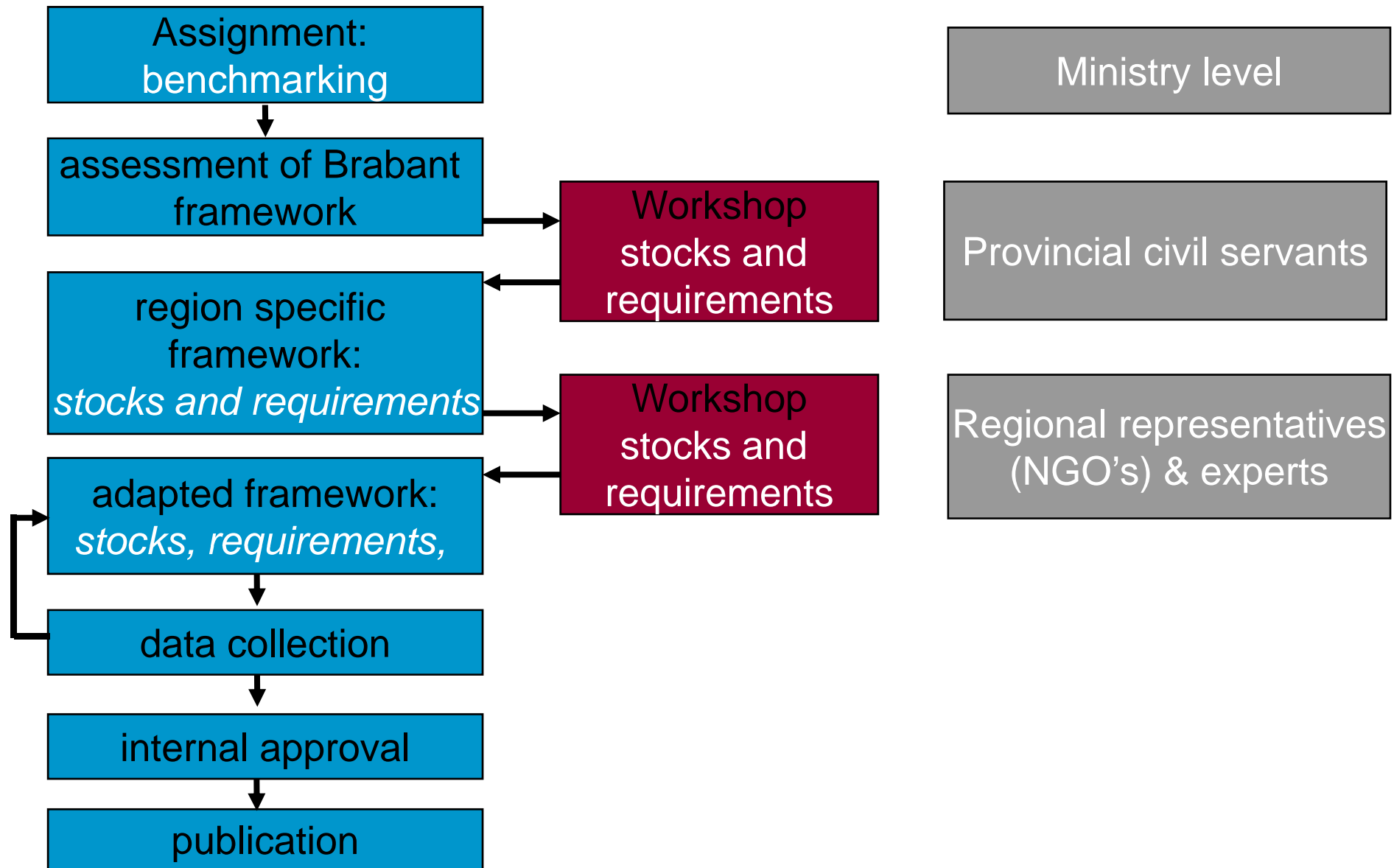
Tension between participation and analytical robustness

- Analytically weak, too many issues incorporated

Data availability causes problems for participation

- Data availability steers indicator set and norms
- Identification of blank spots in availability of data

# Zeeland, Flevoland, Limburg (2004)





## Process in Zeeland, Flevoland and Limburg

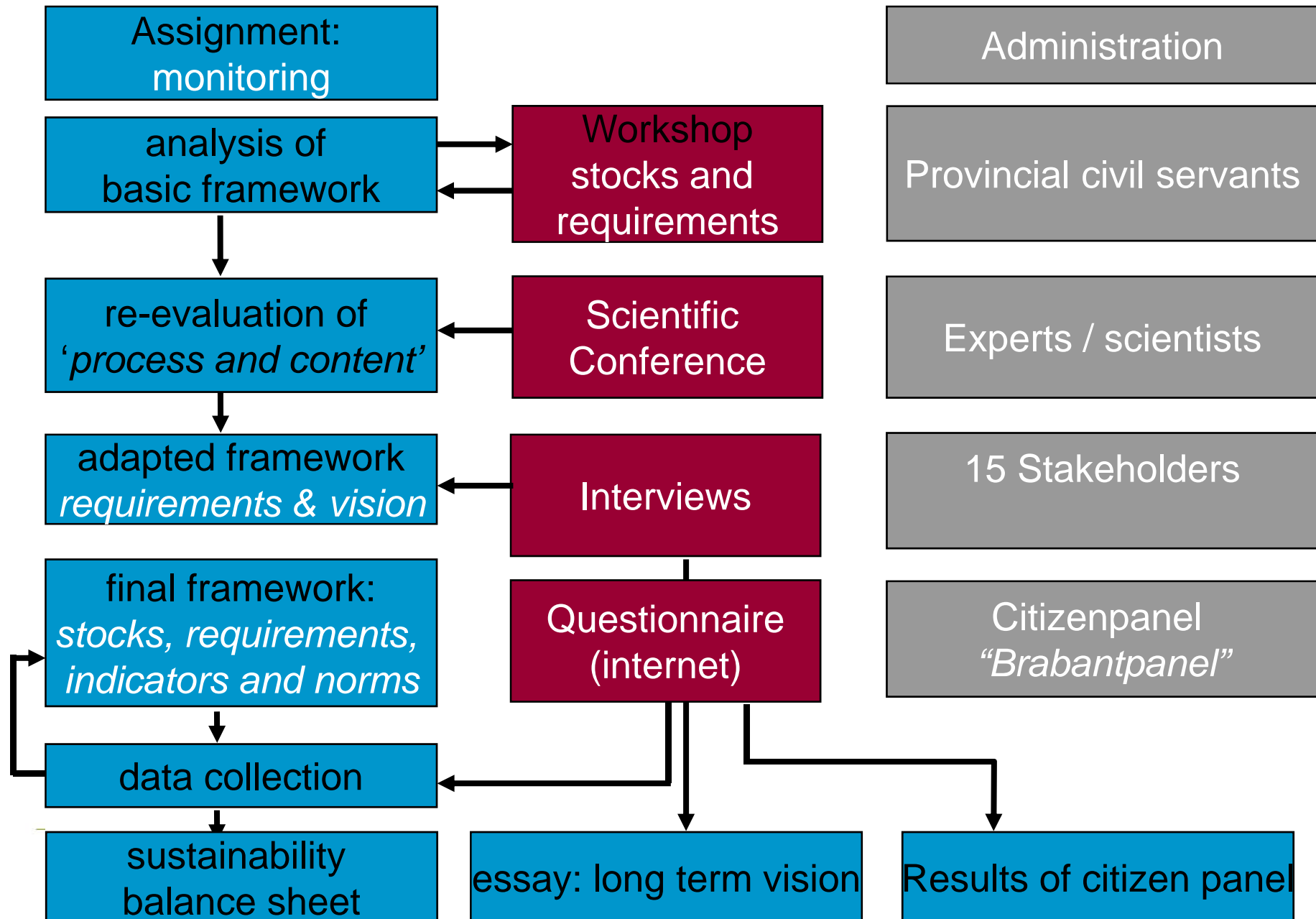
### Tension between participation and benchmarking

- Interest of local stakeholder differs from region to region
- Interest of higher level (what to benchmark) differs from lower level interests

For monitoring purposes individual consultation can be enough

- There is no added value in discussing the requirements with stakeholders in a workshop

# North-Brabant 2006





## Results participation process Brabant 2006

Further step in scientific grounding of the balance sheet

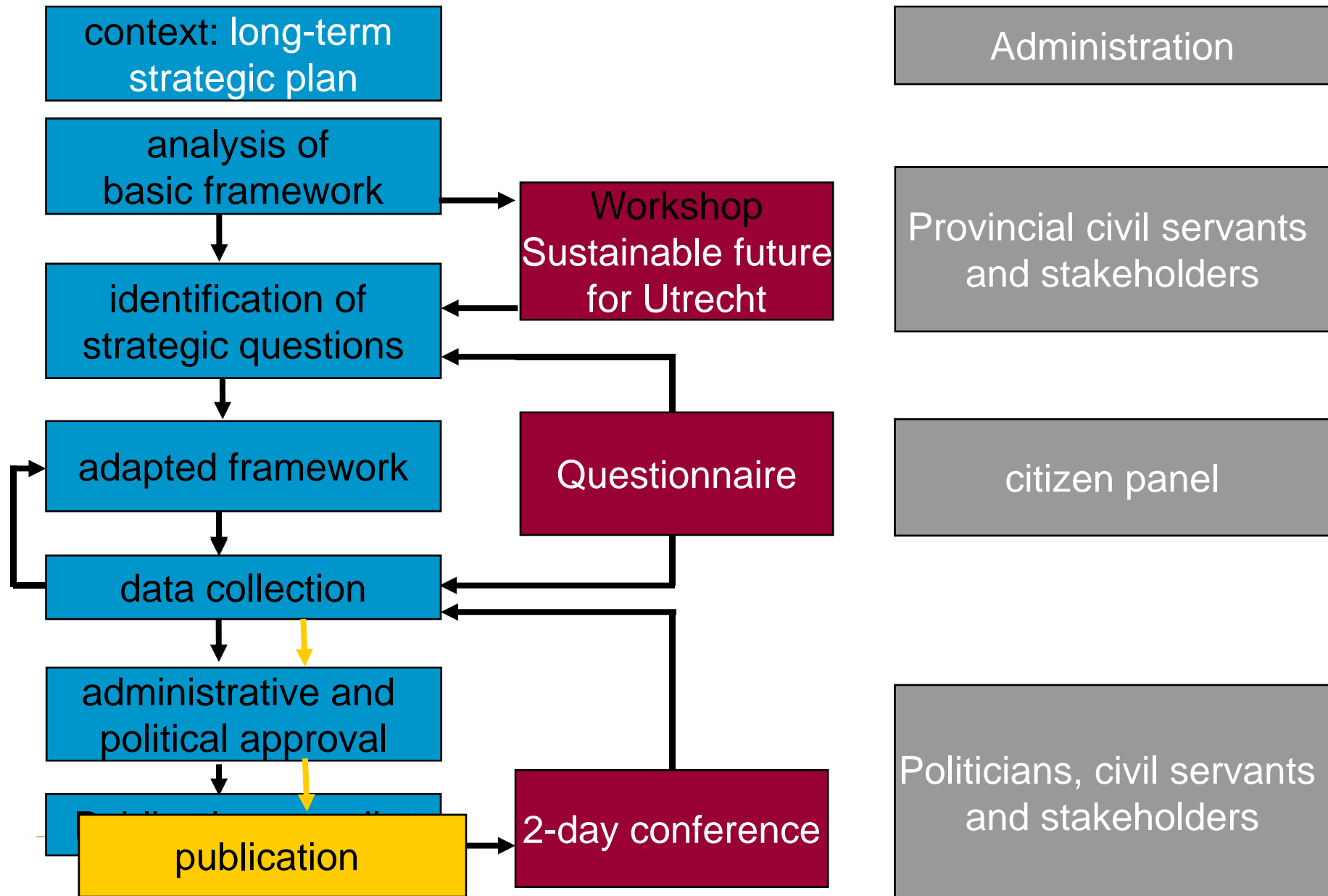
- However: gap between scientific grounding and practical reality of policymakers

Wider range of stakeholders involved and participation methods applied

- Not only stakeholders but also citizens
- Consultation can be sufficient for monitoring

Political involvement is a key factor

# Utrecht 2008





## Process Utrecht 2008

Successful in terms of commitments and speed

- High commitment from civil servants and the political level
- Relatively fast (4 to 5 months)

Not only stakeholder involvement during the making of the monitor, but also after publishing results is a key factor for success



## Conclusions

(1/2)

Context determines the kind of stakeholder participation

- For long term strategic plan making: social learning and interaction, (developing a common language)
- For monitoring purposes alone, consultation is enough



## Conclusions

(2/2)

- Monitoring sustainable development is no use without political and administrative commitment
- Stakeholder involvement *after* publication is a key factor for success
  - A monitor for Sustainable Development gets its meaning from the debate and not from the technical outcome of the instrument



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## Monitoring sustainable development: the Telos triangle

3 capitals: **ecological**, **economic** and **social-cultural**

- All capitals equally important
- No trade-offs in time
- No trade-offs in space

