

# **Policy for Partnership:** **Assessing the Meta-Governance for** **Government-Civil Society Relationships**

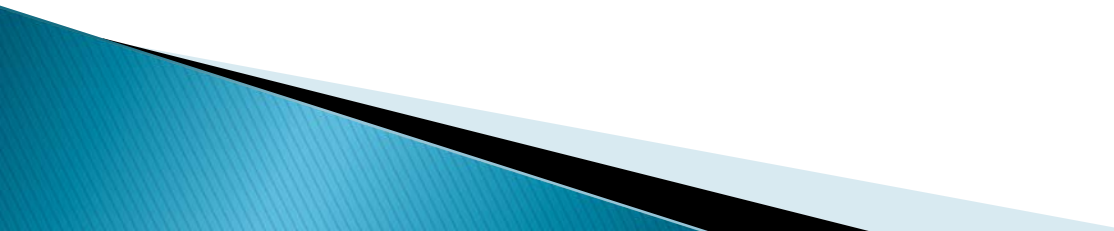
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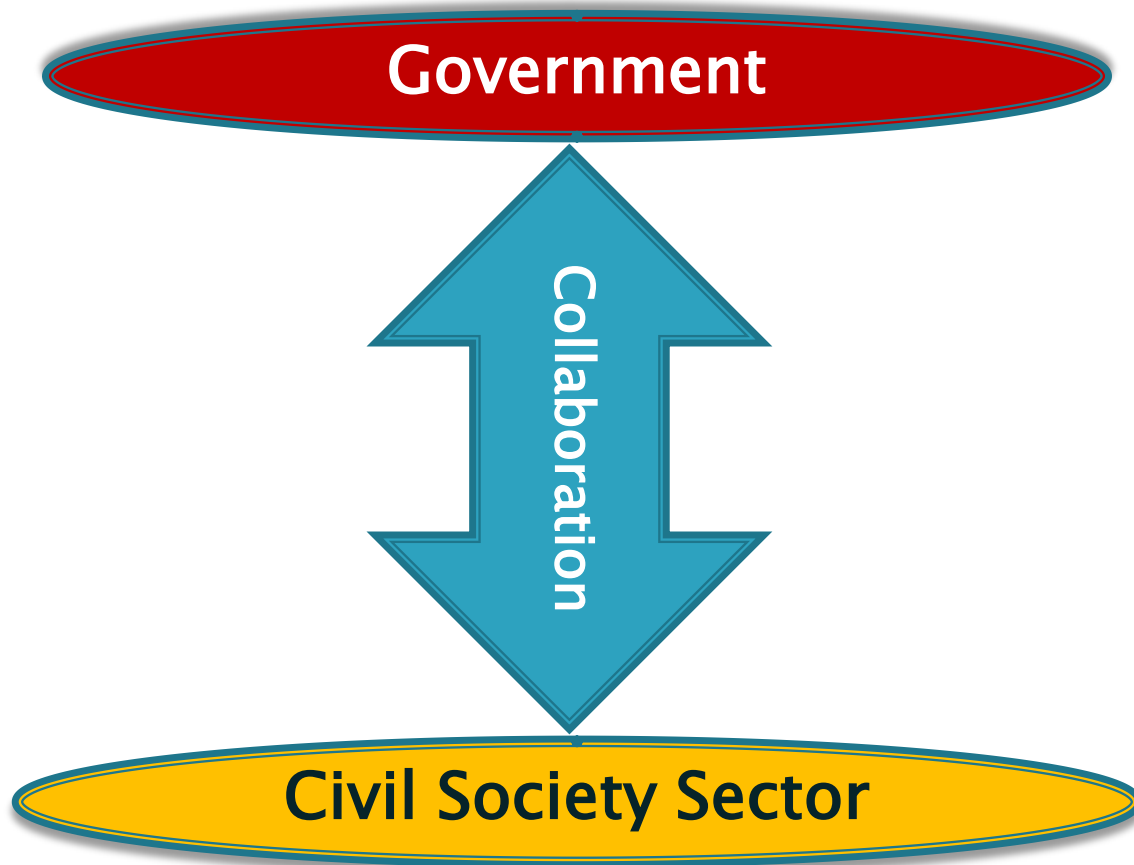
Why are some governments better at partnership with civil society than others?



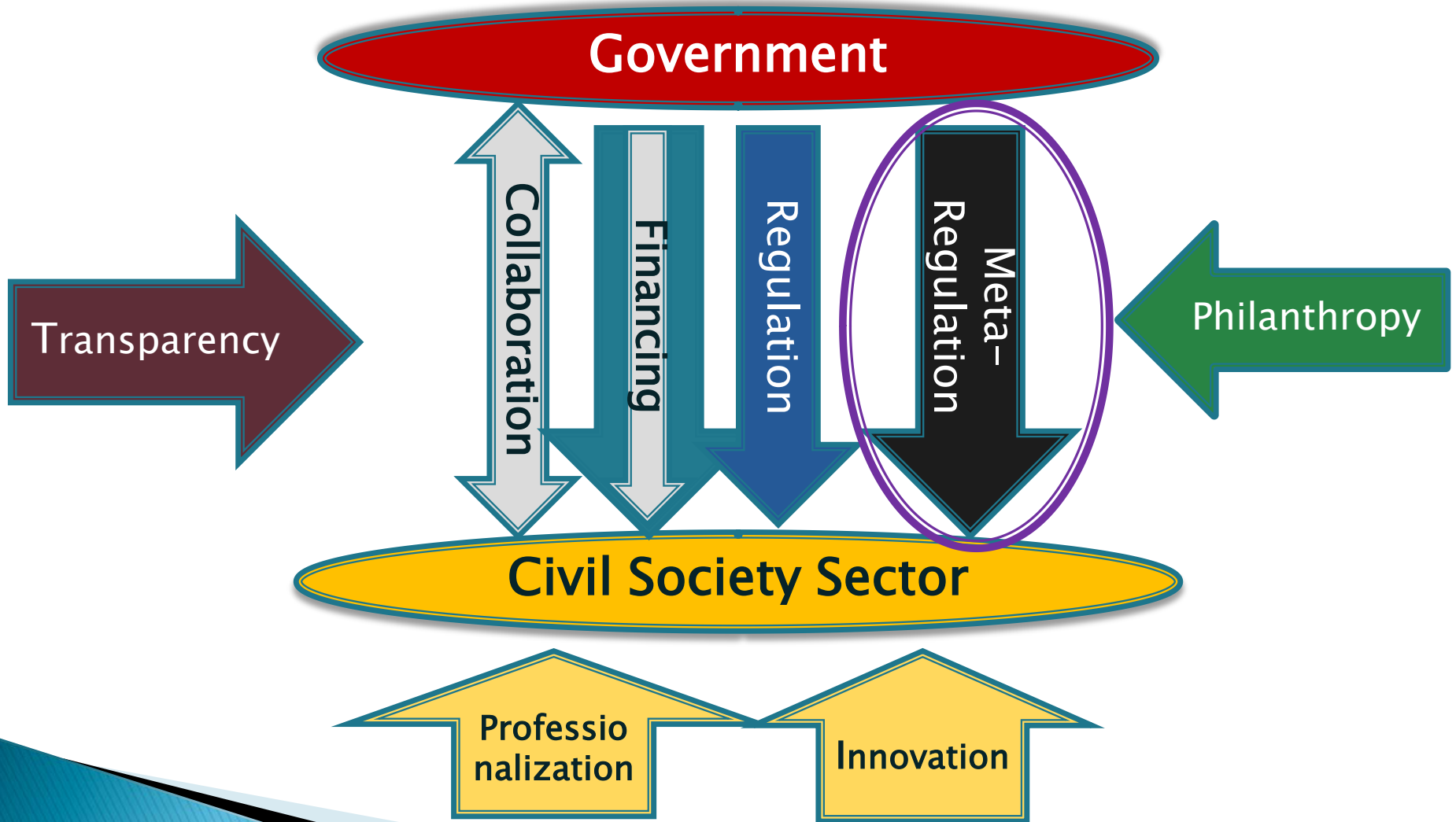
# Goals

- ▶ Rethink how we conceptualise government–civil society relationships
    - Focus on the ‘meta–governance’
  - ▶ What supporting architecture is needed?
    - Put philanthropy into the mix
  - ▶ Look to the challenges ahead
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# 'Governance'



# It's More Complicated



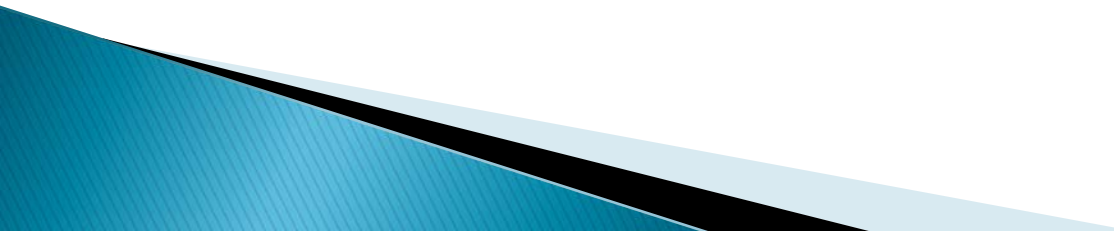
# Meta- Regulation

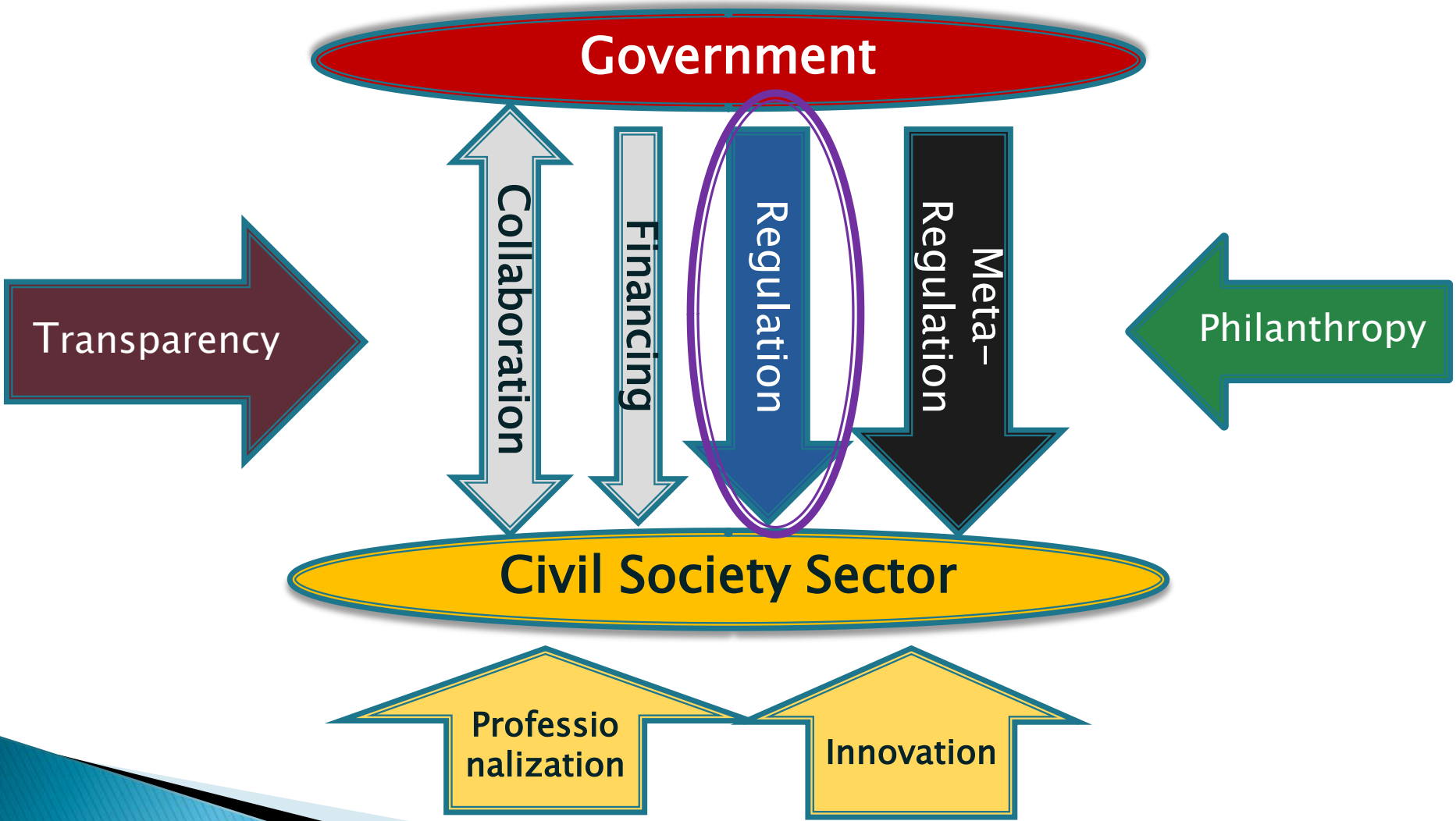
Steering or inducing others to develop their own internalised self-regulatory responses to public problems,



often while maintaining considerable control over the direction of the course by setting outcome targets

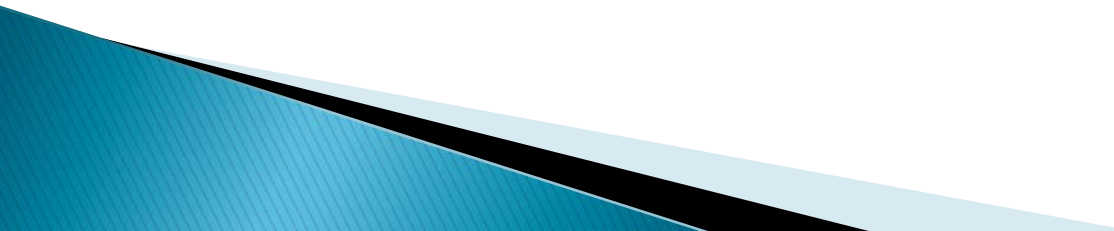
# Meta-Regulation

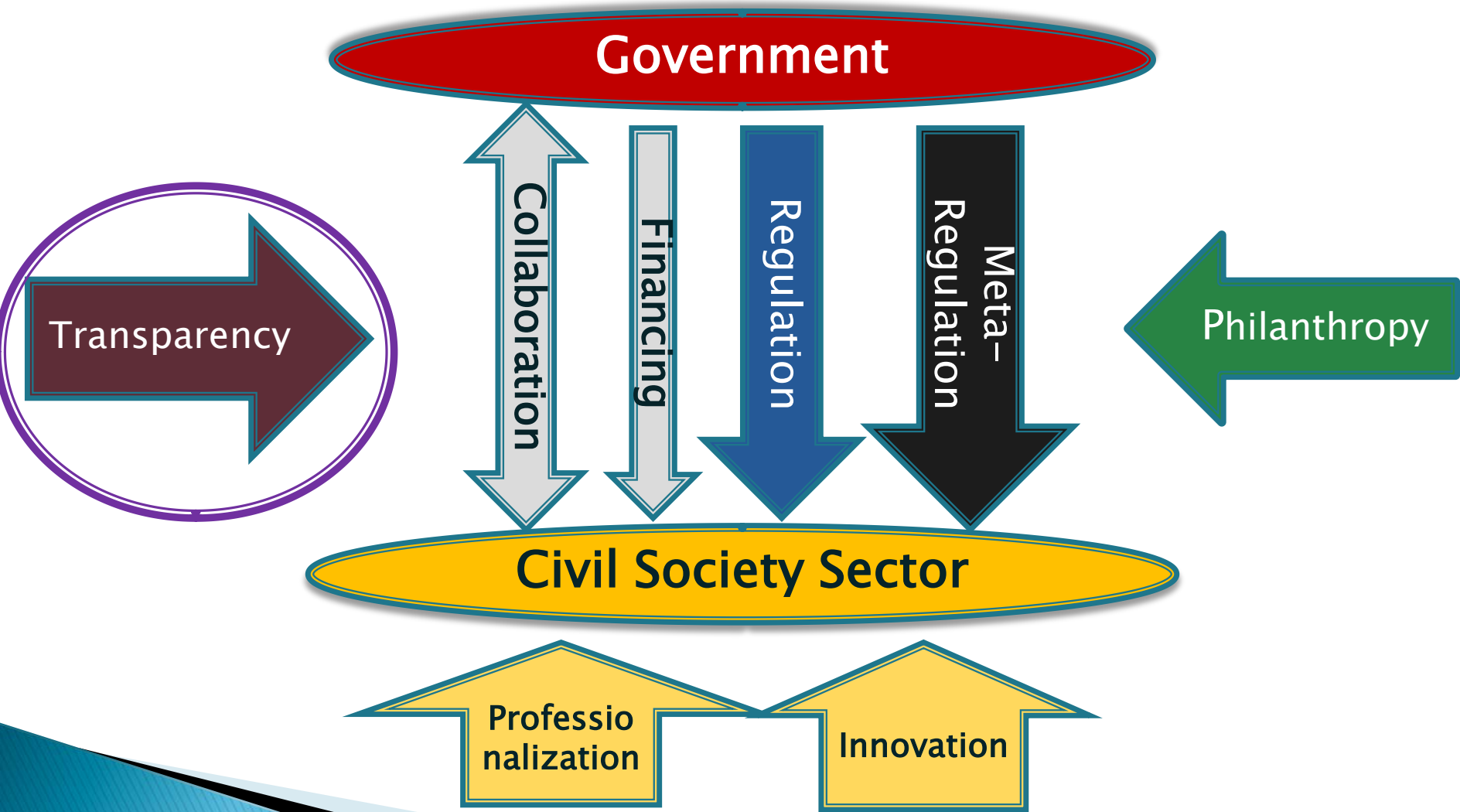
- ▶ Direct others to: identify risks, devise internal control systems; evaluate the efficacy
  - ▶ Governance *of* private governance and governance *by* private governance
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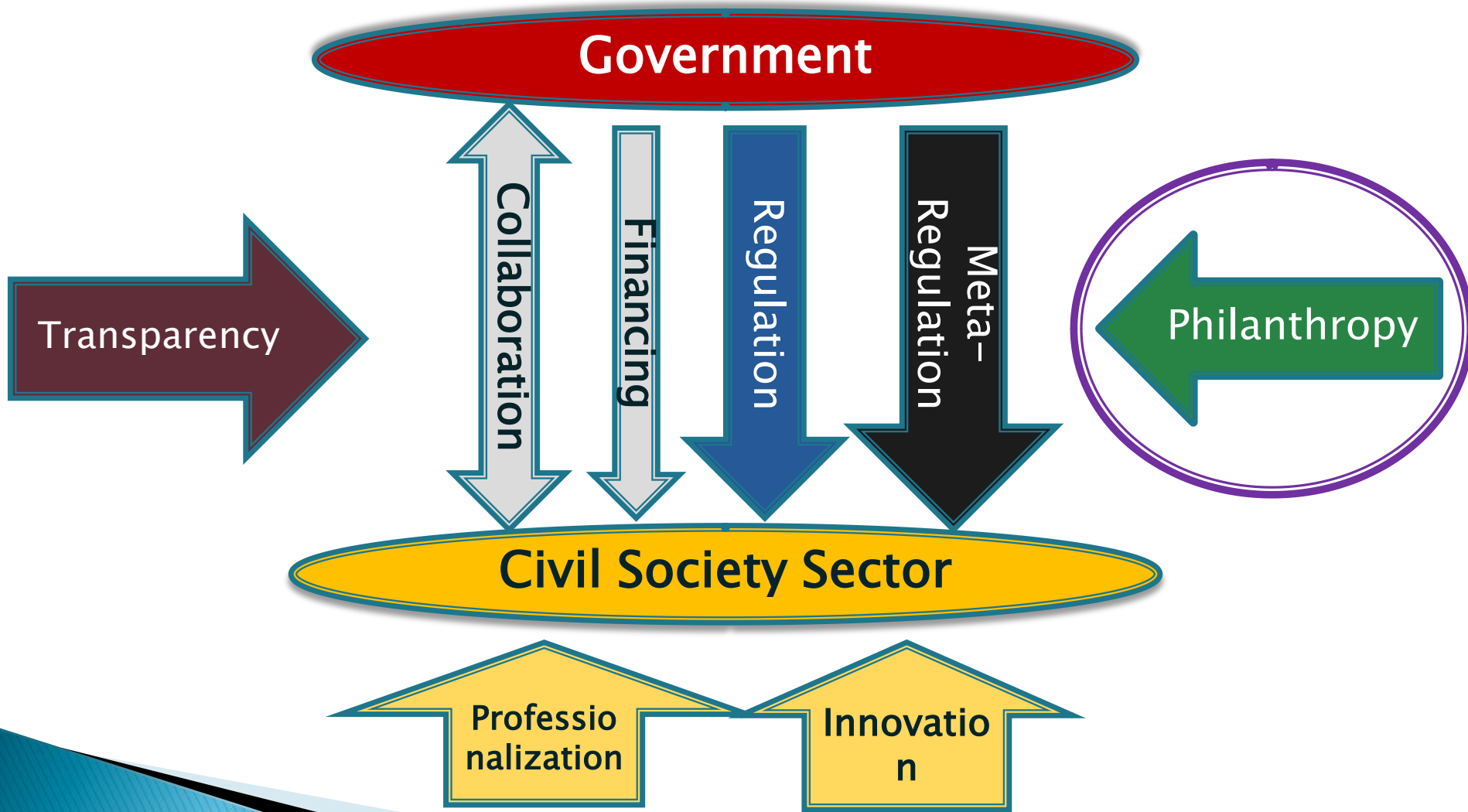
# Regulation

- ▶ Legacy of NPM was not only markets, but regulation
  - ▶ Regulation is morphing into more diverse forms, but governments are still demonstrating their willingness to use rule-based regulation
  - ▶ Need to be prepared for more risk-based regulation and transnational regimes
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# 'Radical' Transparency

- ▶ CSOs have greater access to information – open data movement
- ▶ Public expects greater disclosure by governments and CSOs: we 'own' you



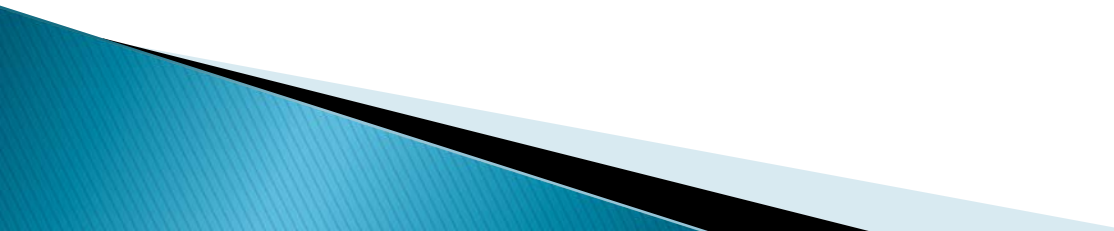
# Philanthropy




(private  
money  
for  
public  
benefit)

Assume a 1000 flowers, at what cost?

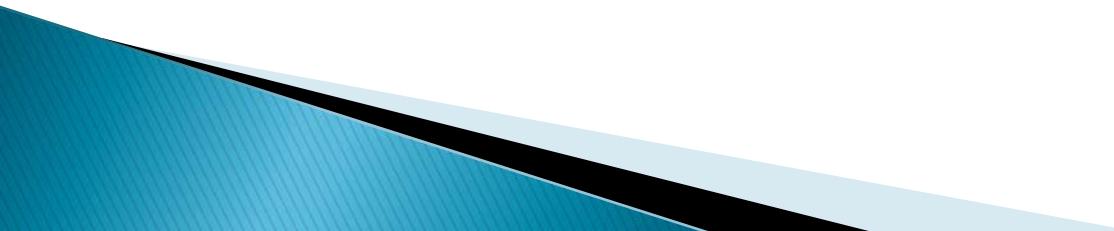
# A Hard Look at Philanthropy

- ▶ Expectations: too great or too little?
  - ▶ Innovation and social finance
  - ▶ Role of philanthropic institutions
  - ▶ The wisdom of scaling up
  - ▶ Transnational and multi-level issues
  - ▶ How can public policy support philanthropy?: more than tax credits
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# Policy for Partnership

1. Vision of civil society that sees it as more than service providers (sustained leadership)
  2. Supporting Architecture: Hard foundations
    - Modern ‘charities’ legislation: public benefit & hybridization
    - Responsive regulatory institutions
    - Flexible financing instruments
    - Evaluation capacities/ strategies
    - Support for philanthropy
    - Infrastructure organisations/ policy capacity of civil society
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# Policy for Partnership

3. Supporting architecture: 'Soft' Stuff
    - Horizontal accountability
    - Evaluation culture
    - Regulation as learning
    - Understanding of risk and innovation
    - Leadership and succession planning
    - Rationalisation, for good and bad
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# Looking Forward

- ▶ Beyond 'Governance' – Public management needs better theories of government–civil society relationships, and the instruments that support them
  - ▶ Explaining collaboration involves looking at the combination of contextual factors and institutional arrangements
    - Put philanthropy into the mix
  - ▶ Hypothesis: Collaboration, as meta–governance, will become more difficult over the short to medium term
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