

The theory and practice of engaged universities worldwide

Neamtu Bogdana

*Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Political, Administrative and
Communication Sciences, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

*Calin Hintea, Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences,
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Roger Hamlin, Michigan State University, Marigold, United States

Abstract: The last three decades have witnessed a growing body of literature on the changing role and functions of universities. Concepts such as the ‘engaged university’ ‘multiversity’ and ‘university as a complex enterprise’ have been discussed and evaluated by academics and practitioners. More recently, scholars have also turned their attention to the role of universities within the framework of local innovation ecosystems. The current research investigates how, through a variety of engagement related functions, universities can foster social, economic, and technological development in the cities that host them. The analysis is based on qualitative research conducted in both U.S. and Romania with key respondents from universities. In addition, for Romania the authors have also included main findings from their experience as consultants for the city of Cluj-Napoca for strategic planning activities.