

# The Influence of Universities in the Activity of Local Public Administration from Romania

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### **Abstract**

This paper explores the influence of universities in Romania on the activities of local public administration, emphasizing the alignment between administrative activities and their objectives. The study is grounded in the premise that collaboration between local authorities and academic institutions can enhance the achievement of sustainable development goals. The research investigates the extent to which universities contribute to shaping the objectives and activities of local administration. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating the analysis of official public documents with administering questionnaires to local authorities in cities with major university

centers across Romania. The anticipated findings are expected to reveal varying levels of university involvement, highlighting the role of academic expertise in policy formulation and the degree to which local administrations leverage the knowledge and resources of nearby academic institutions. This research underscores the potential for stronger university-local administration partnerships to drive more effective and sustainable governance.

**Keywords:** academic institutions, collaboration, partnership, sustainable development, objectives.

## 1. Introduction

Public administration's activities are associated with achieving its objectives, with each activity designed to fulfill a specific goal, such as the efficient delivery of services, the promotion of welfare, the assurance of accountability, or the fostering of sustainable development. Formulating coherent public administration objectives and strategies is vital for enhancing the effectiveness and resilience of local governance in Romania. These strategies facilitate the well-being of communities and improve institutional capacity at various levels, including county and municipal authorities (Tomuz, 2022). Moreover, public authorities' responsibility in guaranteeing citizens' security highlights the necessity for a robust legislative framework and efficient administrative practices to protect citizens' rights and enhance their quality of life (Tudor-Drăghici, 2023). The global pandemic of 2020 highlighted the necessity for institutional resilience, demonstrating that local public administrations must adapt and innovate to manage crisis effectively (Profiroiu and Nastacă 2023). Thus, a coordinated strategy at the county and municipal levels is crucial for achieving sustainable development and enhancing the overall effectiveness of public administration in Romania (Iancu, Vrabie and Ungureanu, 2022). This comprehensive approach is essential for achieving sustainable development and fostering public trust in government institutions.

Also, the role of universities in public policy is particularly evident in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Universities have been at the vanguard of integrating sustainability into their curricula, operations, and strategic plans, acknowledging their obligation to contribute to realizing these global objectives. Consequently, Sustainable Development Goal 17, which reads 'Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development', acknowledges the significance of multi-stakeholder partnerships as crucial instruments for mobilizing and disseminating knowledge, expertise, technologies, and financial resources to facilitate the attainment of the sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries. Furthermore, Goal 17 seeks to encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on existing partnerships' experience and resourcing strategies (UN, Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030).

The collaborative dimension of public administration plays an instrumental role in promoting sustainable development, which is a crucial aspect in addressing the multifaceted challenges confronting local authorities (Berceanu and Nicolescu, 2024).

Collaboration between public administration and academic institutions (such as universities, research institutes, academies, etc.) for formulating objectives and implementing strategies could help ensure an effective partnership in achieving the SDG 17 Goal.

The competitive global education market powerfully calls for universities to embrace sustainable development. By creating dynamic learning environments, universities can empower students to drive responsible economic growth at local, regional, and international levels. Collaborating with local representatives will shape community perspectives on sustainability, inspiring change and innovation in higher education (Cărbăușan, 2024).

This paper examines how universities in Romania impact the development of local public administration. It proposes that universities have long played a crucial role in shaping the field of public administration.

This argument is supported by Honey (1967), who posits that universities and their public administration and affairs programs are expected to assume a leadership role in recognizing and meeting public service responsibilities. Historically, some universities have been explicitly tasked with accelerating regional economic and social development and have significantly influenced the labor market and regional economies (Filho *et al.*, 2019). In the modern era, universities have assumed expanded responsibilities, engaging actively in sustainability initiatives, research, teaching, and outreach to contribute to broader societal goals (Sengupta, Blessinger and Yaminet, 2020). In addition, the Mario Draghi Report on the Future of European Competitiveness (2024, p. 28) asserts that universities and other research institutions play a central role in early-stage innovation, generating breakthrough research and cultivating new skill sets for the workforce.

Thus, this paper hypothesizes that local public authorities will enhance collaborative projects with academic institutions and facilitate better attaining of sustainable goals through these projects.

In light of the premises mentioned above, this study seeks to address the following research questions:

1. To what extent do universities contribute to local administration objectives? and
2. Which are the academic institution's intervention fields at the local level?

This paper may interest academics and practitioners as it emphasizes the part played by universities in community development and the importance of stronger university-local public administration collaborations.

## 2. Materials and methods

This paper aims to adopt a descriptive approach complemented by a quantitative analysis. The IMRaD structure has been selected to facilitate the organization of ideas and the consolidation of theoretical arguments that necessitate a more flexible relationship between methods, results, and discussion (Martin, 2014). Accordingly, the present study adopted a mixed-methods research approach, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis in parallel form (Kemper, Stringfield and Teddlie, 2003, pp. 283–284).

In order to achieve the objectives of this study, the initial phase will entail an analysis of how the literature describes the concepts and whether they are linked. The bibliometric analysis, utilizing the VosViewer software, will be employed as a research method for the paper. Bibliometric analysis has become an essential tool for university libraries, providing valuable insights into the research landscape and supporting evidence-based decision-making (Vanz, Santin and Pavão, 2018).

In the qualitative research phase of the study, the following methods were employed: direct observation and document analysis. These were carried out starting from the following steps:

- The first step, as stipulated by the Romanian Administrative Code, involved identifying the intervention fields at the local level;
- Website research at the municipality level within the counties where major Romanian academic institutions are located; and
- The intervention fields identified in the qualitative research were cross-verified in other counties with academic institutions.

In the quantitative research phase of the study, a questionnaire was used to test the hypothesis concerning the relationship between specific variables. The objective of this phase was to obtain information related to the partnerships that the local authorities have concluded in the period 2020–2024 with academic institutions (universities, research centers, and institutes) in the country and abroad. The questionnaire (see Annex 2) was disseminated online to the 10 local public administration authorities in accordance with the Law. No. 544/2001 regarding the free access to public information.

To achieve greater efficiency in acquiring and processing quantitative data, the local authorities from various cities were linked with the major university centers in Romania (namely Bucharest, Braşov, Iaşi, Cluj-Napoca, and Timișoara). Furthermore, to observe the interaction patterns between the major university centers and their smaller counterparts in their collaboration with the local authorities, a questionnaire was administered to university centers that were affiliated with the aforementioned major ones, such as Craiova, Constanța, Sibiu, Oradea, Târgu-Mureș, Suceava, Constanța, etc. The geographical distribution of these university centers is illustrated in Figure 1, which also provides a visual representation of the connections between them.

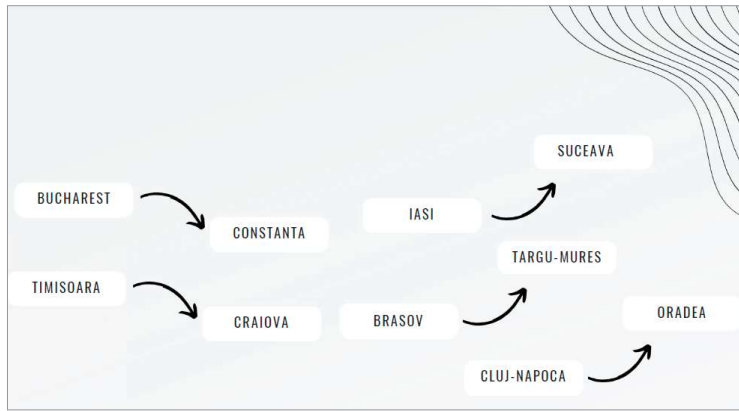


Figure 1: Visual representation of the connections between university centers

Source: Authors' own work

In accordance with the aforementioned premises and methodology that have been previously outlined, the purpose of this paper is to examine the manner in which collaboration between universities and local public administration authorities manifests in the formulation of local development objectives. These objectives are considered an integral component of the daily activities undertaken by both parties.

### 3. Literature Review

The relationship between academic institutions and local public administration can offer significant benefits, including the sharing of information, increased productivity, more efficient use of resources, and greater legitimacy among multiple actors.

One crucial aspect of this collaboration is the potential for local public administration to draw upon the knowledge and expertise of academic institutions (Pugel *et al.*, 2022). Academics can offer invaluable insights and research that can inform policy decisions and enhance the efficacy of local public administration initiatives.

To gain insight into how literature addresses the topic of collaboration between academic institutions and local public administrations, we are conducting a bibliometric analysis that focuses on the objectives, universities, projects, and partnerships in the field of local public administration.

The analysis was conducted using the VosViewer software (version 1.6.20), which is a software tool for creating maps based on network data and for visualizing and exploring these maps and provides visualization and analysis of bibliometric data (Van Eck and Waltman, 2010).

The data employed in this study were obtained from the Web of Science (WoS) online database, which encompasses the scholarly output about local public administration, objectives, strategies, and universities. The period under examination was 2014–2024. A database of 3,211 articles was constructed based on their relevance, as determined by the WoS database, concerning publications in the field of public administration. A map was

created based on text data, utilizing a comprehensive word count and the co-occurrence of terms from ten sources.

As shown in Figure 2, the results consisted of 101 items and 11 clusters. Furthermore, an analysis of Figure 2 on the extant literature on local public administration objectives reveals a pronounced emphasis on the role of technology and innovation in enhancing public services and citizen engagement (Bran-Piedrahita *et al.*, 2023).

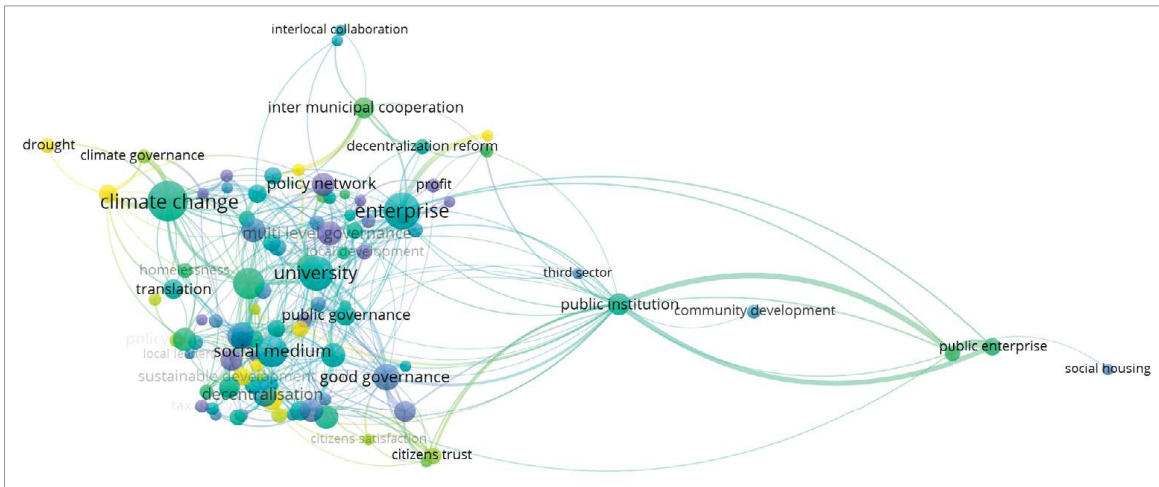


Figure 2: Map on text data

Source: Authors elaboration using VOSviewer

Figure 3 shows that cluster no. four contains the main network relations for civil service, government responsiveness, local government management, local government responsiveness, local leadership, local self-government, social equity, stress, and teaching.

The connections identified in the map highlighted in Figure 3 suggest that universities are influencing the objectives of local public administration in ways related to the civil service, government responsiveness, local government management, local leadership, and social equity.

## 4. Results and discussion

### 4.1. From the qualitative part

Universities are institutions of higher education that fulfill three fundamental functions: research, teaching/learning, and community service. These functions are carried out in conditions of institutional autonomy and academic freedom (UNESCO, 2009).

The final function must be considered in potential collaboration with public administration authorities. In Romania, for instance, universities are expected to play a significant role in forming public policy, although the extent of this impact may vary.

Under the stipulations outlined in Law No. 199/2023 on higher education in Romania, the mission of universities is to generate, certify, and transfer knowledge through active

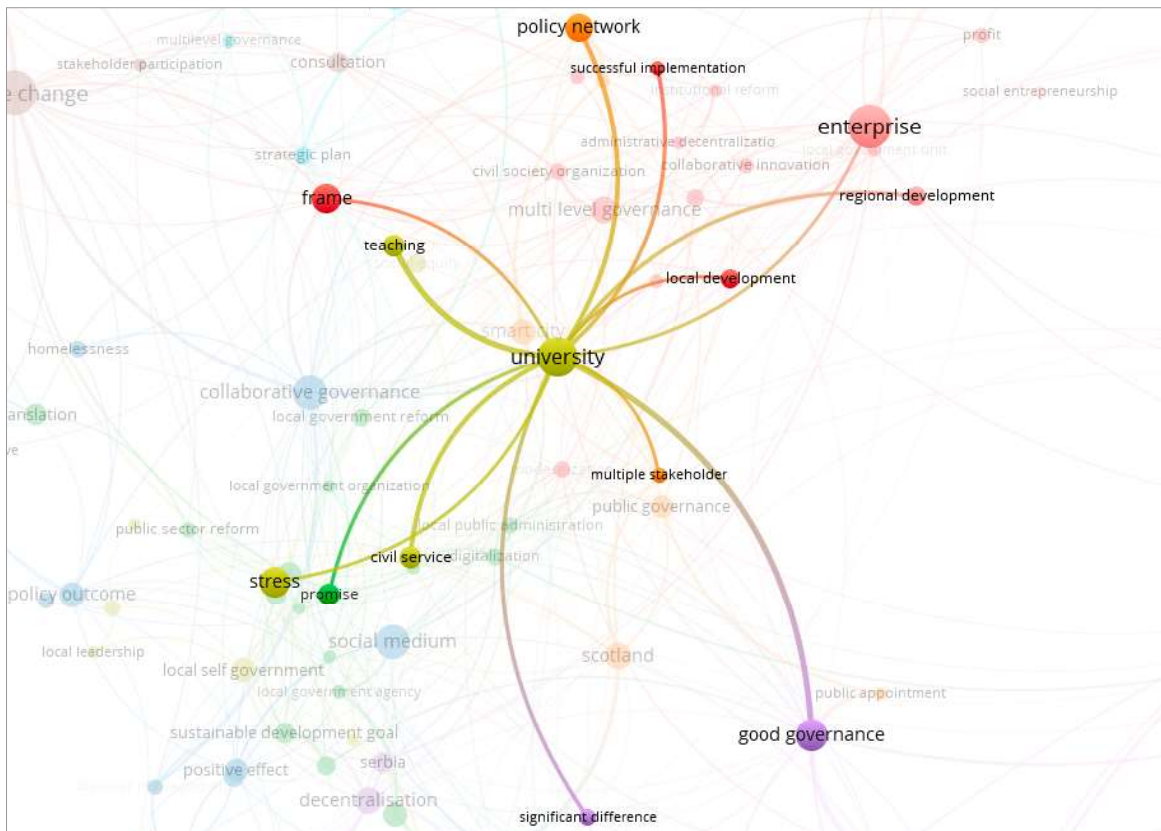


Figure 3: Cluster 4 map of networks

Source: Authors elaboration using VOSviewer

engagement with the community, through joint endeavors that benefit both the higher education institution and the social, economic and cultural environment (article 3, paragraph 1). In addition, Article 3, paragraph 2, letter j, identifies the value of collaboration, which is to be pursued through the development of inter-university partnerships, as well as with public or private research institutes and public or private economic operators.

Additionally, the Romanian Administrative Code (GEO no. 57/2019) stipulates that one of the fundamental principles governing local public administration is the principle of cooperation (article 75, paragraph 1, letter e).

To identify the fields of collaboration for intervention, an analysis of the administrative code provision of the local public administration authorities was conducted (i.e., the local council and the mayor). The mayor's attributions (art. 155, para. 4) were corroborated with those of the local council (GEO no. 57/2019, art. 129, para. 2 and 7), which establish the competencies of these authorities and the necessary framework for the provision of public services of local interest. This analysis allowed the following main areas of collaboration to be highlighted, which could be the object of partnerships between local authorities and universities: social and economic development; environment protection; local services; public and private domain; inter-institutional cooperation; health, culture and youth; urban development; and emergencies.

These findings were incorporated into the questionnaire as a component of the quantitative analysis. Additionally, the responses to the open-ended inquiries, no. two and six offer qualitative and quantitative combined data (see Annex 2).

Concerning open question number six, the outcomes demonstrated significant variation, with references to strategic documents, surveys, and general public satisfaction. Nevertheless, certain respondents emphasize the absence of substantial, concrete outcomes, which makes it difficult for researchers to find them in the municipality's website's content analysis.

Considering the responses to open question number two in the questionnaire and the subsequent analysis of the local authorities' website, a comprehensive summary of the collaborative endeavors undertaken between local authorities and academic institutions has been derived. The summary is presented in Table 1 from Annex 1. It is important to note that the analysis was conducted exclusively on the decisions made by the Local Council/General Council of Bucharest Municipality, as it is the deliberative local authorities.

A content analysis of the data in Table 1 (see Annex 1) reveals two primary types of agreements formalizing these partnerships: cooperation agreements and partnership agreements. Cooperation agreements are often focused on project-based interactions, typically tied to specific events. These initiatives emphasize inter-institutional cooperation, aiming to achieve mutual objectives through joint financing and implementation. Conversely, partnership agreements encompass broader, long-term commitments, such as Braşov's initiatives with Transylvania University to enhance research, education, and professional development.

Furthermore, we observe cultural needs, such as cultural collaborations like the 'Cinematron Meetings' in Braşov or the '60th Anniversary of Higher Education in Suceava', which underscore the role of academia in enriching community identity and fostering local cultural narratives to long-term sustainability goals. Partnerships addressing environmental challenges are particularly noteworthy, such as the 'NetZeRoCities' initiative in Bucharest.

Education remains a cornerstone of these collaborations, encompassing student internships, professional training, and curriculum development. For instance, Braşov's partnership with the University of Transylvania aims to enhance teaching quality, while Bucharest's agreements promote student career guidance programs.

In addition, the findings indicate a preference among local public authorities to engage in collaborative partnerships with academic institutions and universities within their respective cities. However, this preference is not absolute, as evidenced by the observation of limited instances where partnerships with universities from other academic centers are pursued. A notable example of this phenomenon is the Partnership Agreement between the Municipality of Braşov and the 'Ion Mincu' University of Architecture and Urban Planning in Bucharest, which was concluded in response to a specific objective.

## 4.2. From the quantitative part

In this part of the study, the responses to a questionnaire on Law no. 544/2001 on free access to public information, which was sent to ten local public authorities, were examined. The results revealed that some authorities were reluctant to respond, as illustrated by Oradea Municipality, which did not respond to the request despite having an obligation to do so according to the regulations. The Târgu-Mureș Municipality authority stated that it had not partnered with universities or academic institutions within the country or abroad during 2020–2024. The Timișoara Municipality refrained from explaining, citing the absence of a legal obligation compelling public authorities and institutions to collate and disclose statements or statistics at the behest of citizens.

Among the respondents, the Municipality of Bucharest submitted two questions, completed by the General Directorate for the Management of Externally Financed Projects and the Directorate for Culture, Education, and Tourism.

Subsequently, the figures will be presented, incorporating the centralized responses from local public administration authorities. These responses will then be interpreted.

As illustrated in Figure 4, municipalities such as Bucharest, Brașov, and Cluj-Napoca are particularly prominent. This distribution enables a multifaceted perspective on partnerships across diverse geographical regions.

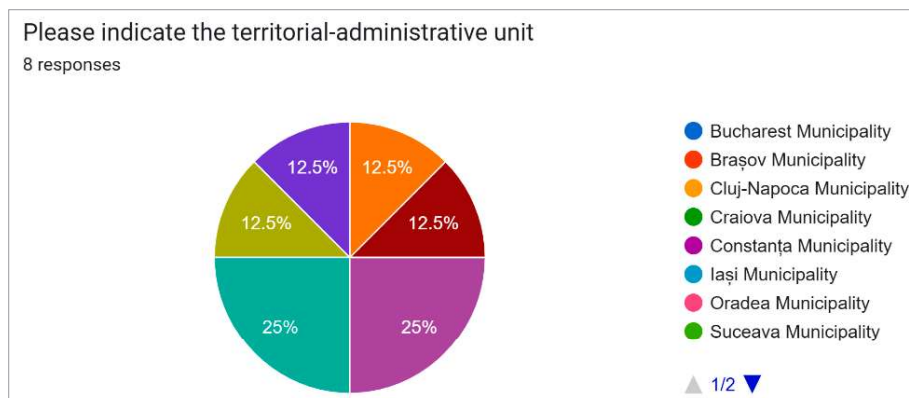


Figure 4: Distribution of responses to the local authorities

Source: Authors' own work

An analysis of the data from Figure 5, indicates that the primary funding sources comprise local budgets, European funds, and private sponsorships. Local authorities prioritize funding from their public budgets over potential European funds. Furthermore, the responses indicate a notable diversity in resource allocation, suggesting that municipalities utilize multiple funding channels.

As illustrated in Figure 6, a considerable proportion of partnerships fall within the range of 1–5, with budgets ranging from under 50,000 RON to over 1,000,000 RON. This observation indicates that certain municipalities engage in high-value partnerships, albeit to a limited extent.

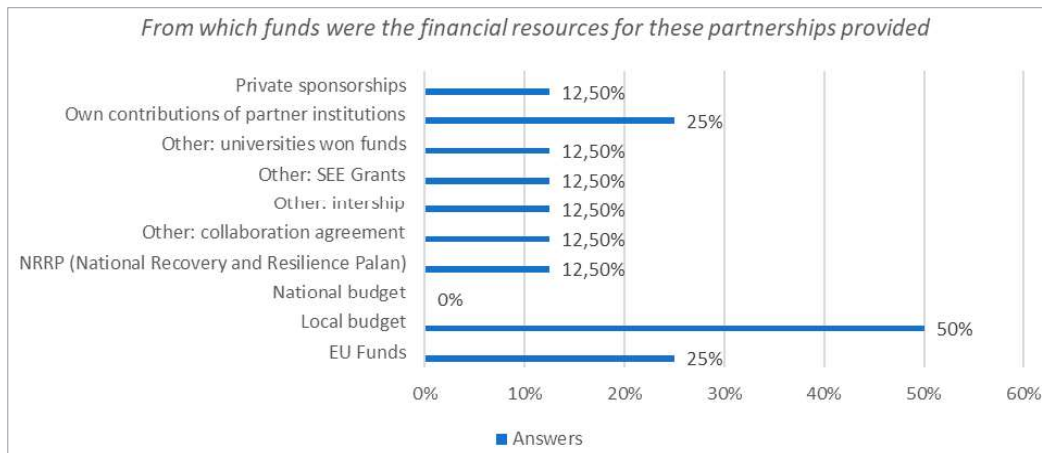


Figure 5: Funds for the implementation of partnerships

Source: Authors' own work

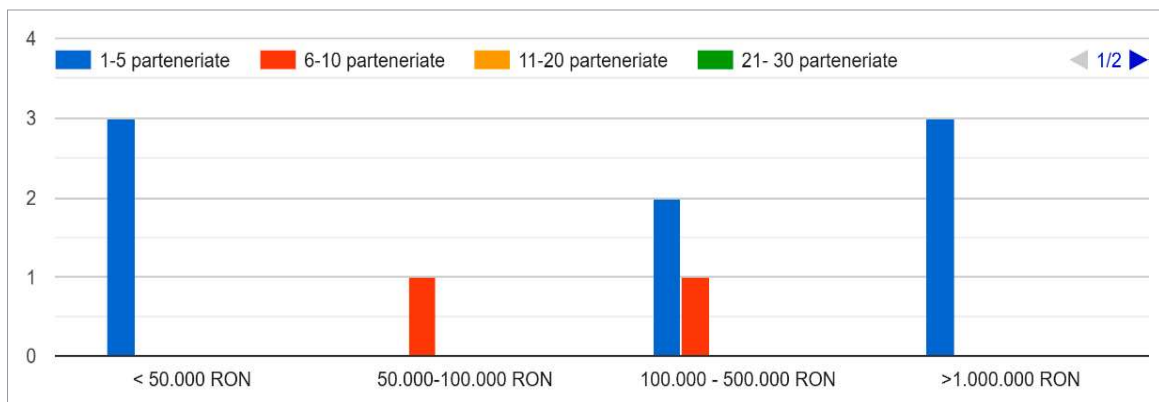


Figure 6: Partnership Values and number

Source: Authors' own work

Regarding the involvement of personnel at the local public administration level, as illustrated in Figure 7, most partnerships consist of three to five or more individuals, suggesting moderate to high organizational commitment.

Figure 8 illustrates the perceived influence of the partnerships. An analysis of the data reveals that most ratings fall within the three and four range on a scale of one to four. This observation suggests that the influence levels are perceived to be moderate to high, indicating that most municipalities recognize the value of these collaborations with academic institutions.

Regarding future partnership interest in the next four years, Figure 9 shows a high degree of interest (scores of three or four) in continuing partnerships over the next four years.

As indicated by Figure 10, local public authorities are interested in concluding partnerships with academic institutions in urban development, education, environmental protection, and social and economic development. It is plausible that these objectives represent the primary local objectives of the local authorities for the forthcoming period.

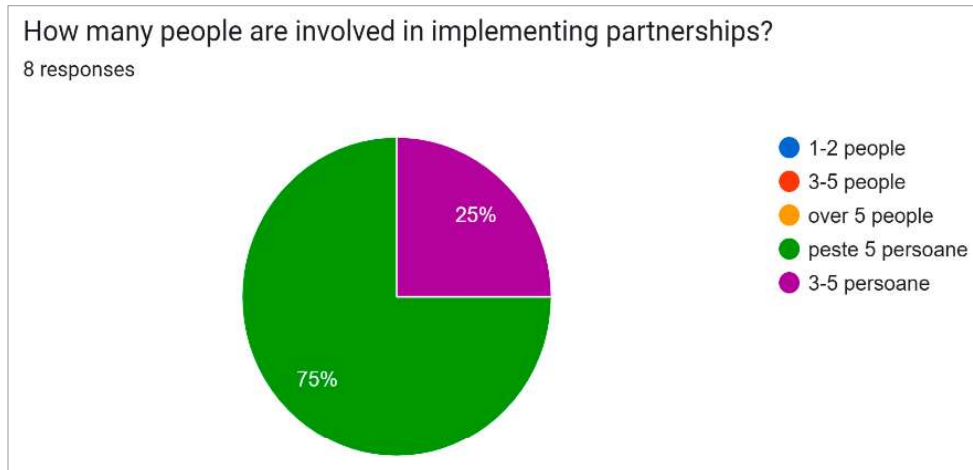


Figure 7: Distribution of the number of people involved in implementing the partnership

Source: Authors' own work

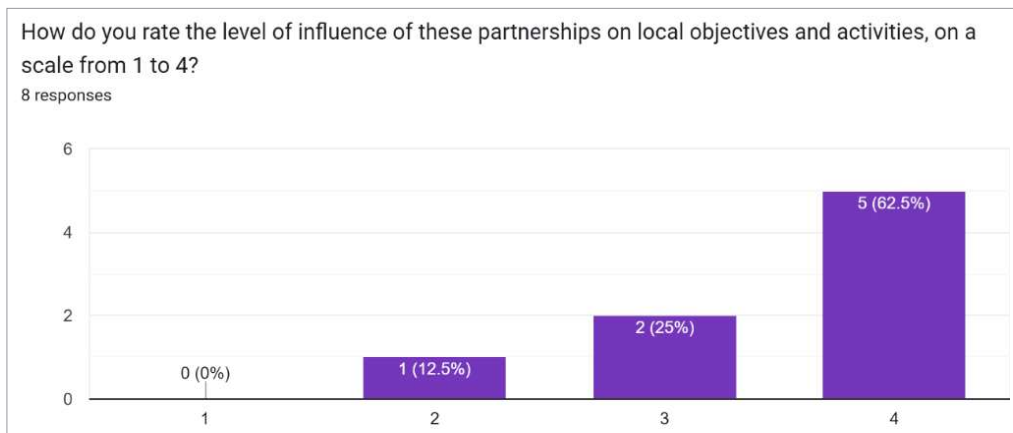


Figure 8: Level of influence of partnerships on local authority objectives and activities

Source: Authors' own work

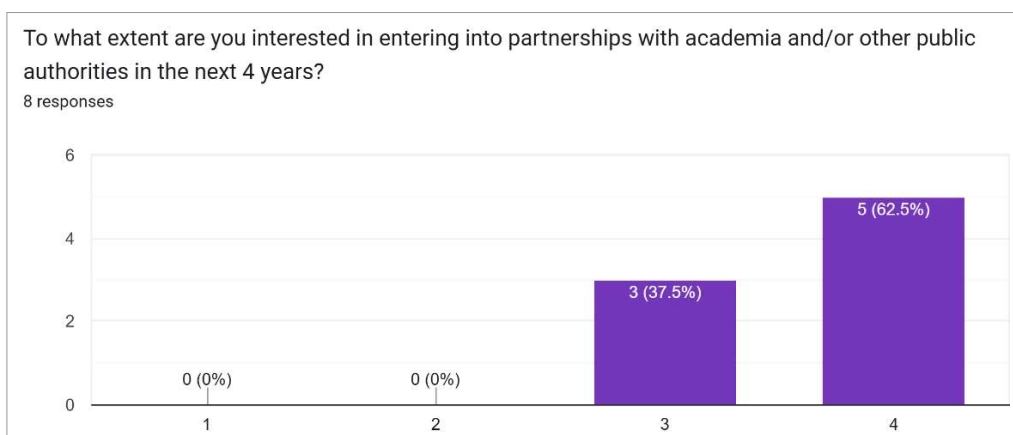


Figure 9: Level of interest in future partnerships with academic institutions

Source: Authors' own work

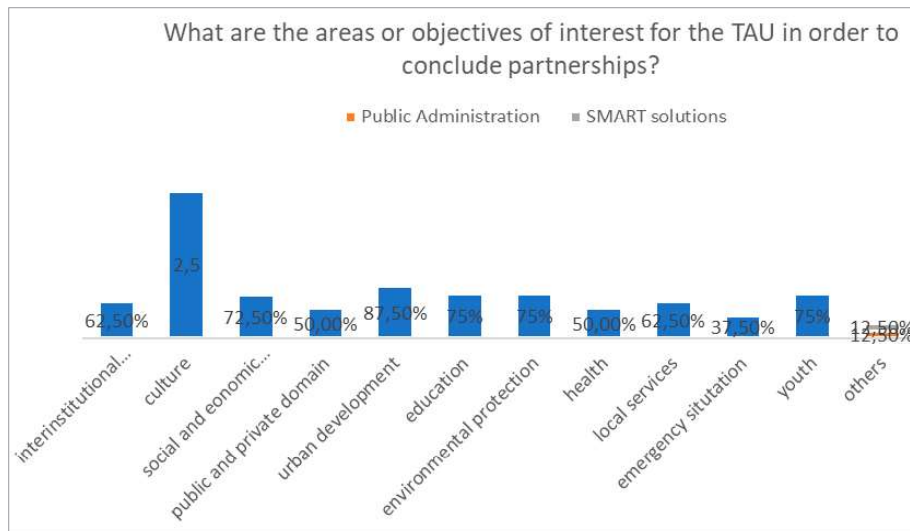


Figure 10: Areas or objectives of interest to conclude partnerships

Source: Authors' own work

In response to the initial research question, which examined the extent to which universities contribute to local administration objectives, the results obtained from the qualitative and quantitative components of the questionnaire were analyzed. The findings indicated that this contribution is confined to specific types of partnerships and predominantly occurs within the scope of universities operating within the respective locality. Collaborations with other university centers are infrequent and restricted to implementing concrete projects, such as those undertaken by the Municipality of Braşov with the 'Ion Mincu' University of Architecture in Bucharest. This observation is further substantiated by the moderate appreciation of partnerships' influence on achieving local objectives expressed by public administration authorities. In response to the second research question, it is observed that a thematic diversification within the partnerships is present, thereby highlighting academic institutions' capacity for adaptability in aligning with the shifting priorities of local governments. The main areas of intervention are environmental protection, urban development, and social and economic development.

Given the findings from the second research question, it can be concluded that the research hypothesis was confirmed. Facilitating collaborative endeavors with academic institutions is instrumental in achieving sustainable development goals. This finding is further substantiated by a qualitative analysis of official documents, which reveals that nearly every agreement and collaboration protocol concluded by the decision of the Local Council/General of the Municipality of Bucharest incorporates a component of sustainable development. This component contributes to achieving sustainable development goals in general and specifically supports the realization of SDG 17, 'Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development'.

## 5. Conclusion

This study aimed to examine the role of universities in influencing the activities of local administrative authorities in Romania, where these activities are directly related to the objectives of local authorities. Observations revealed a degree of collaboration between the two entities, with the partnerships benefiting the local authorities. These benefits included academic expertise, financing research programs and activities, and the financial resources the local authorities provided. Despite a legal framework that facilitates collaboration between local public administration and academic institutions, the degree of university involvement exerts minimal influence on community policy development. The contribution of universities is predominantly evaluated based on the fulfillment of the partnership agreement rather than on the broader impact on policy development.

It is essential to acknowledge this research's limitations, which are characterized by the ambiguity and incompleteness of the questionnaire responses, the absence of quantifiable outcomes, and the qualitative nature of the findings. Additionally, the documentation exhibited variability, and locating official documents on the authorities' website proved challenging.

Consequently, given the previously mentioned limitations of the research, it was impossible to determine how local public administrations use the academic expertise of universities within their respective regions. This issue will be addressed in future research, which we intend to extend to all six districts of Bucharest Municipality, which are governed by district mayors and local councils.

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Table 1. Analysis at the municipality level of academic collaborations (authors' own work)

Municipality	Official document	Type of collaboration	Area of collaboration	Objectives	Outcomes expected
<i>Bucharest</i>	Decision no. 59/2004 on the cooperation between the Municipality of Bucharest Partnership with the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest (USAMV) concluded on the occasion of the events 'European Horticulture Congress – EHC 2024 – European Horticulture Congress' and 'Bucharest Horticulture Days', in Bucharest, between 9-16 May 2024	Cooperation agreement	Interinstitutional cooperation	Mutual support of the parties for the financing and joint realization of events	Promoting education for sustainable development; Promoting the image of the city and its cultural, artistic and tourist products
	Decision no. 172/2004 on the cooperation between the Municipality of Bucharest and the 'Simion Stoilow' Institute of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy for the joint financing and organization of the international event 'Franco-Romanian Colloquium on Applied Mathematics' – XVI Edition, Bucharest, 26–30 August 2024	Cooperation agreement	Interinstitutional cooperation	Mutual support of the parties for the financing and joint realization of international events	Promoting the cultural image and cultural values of the city of Bucharest through all communication channels; Mentioning the advertising materials produced within the promotional campaign and the visual identity elements of the quality of the Municipality of Bucharest as co-organizer/partner of the event
	Decision No. 256/2004 on the approval of the Protocol of collaboration between the Municipality of Bucharest, the Competence Center for Climate-Neutral Smart Cities and the National University of Science and Technology Politehnica Bucharest within the initiative 'NetZeroCities – National Competence Center and solutions for the development of climate-neutral and smart cities'	Cooperation agreement	Environmental protection	Creating the necessary framework for the sustainable development of smart, climate-neutral cities, but also supporting Romanian cities in achieving the climate neutrality target set by the Paris Agreement and the EU Mission for Cities and Climate	Collaboration to identify, submit, and implement research, development, innovation, and digitalization projects through funding programs from reimbursable and non-reimbursable funds based on a bilateral pre-analysis
	Decision no. 560/2022 on the conclusion of a framework partnership agreement between the Municipality of Bucharest and the Universities located within the Municipality of Bucharest	Partnership agreement framework	Social and economic development; education; youth; internship	Developing research and development activities in the specific fields of the Academy/University by carrying out research studies in partnership and/or career guidance programs through which students can complete training and internships within the City Hall. Providing consulting services by the University in fields of interest. Participating in partnerships to implement projects with non-reimbursable financing in the specific fields of the Academy/University	Project consultancy; training courses for employees of the Bucharest City Hall; internship programs for students

Municipality	Official document	Type of collaboration	Area of collaboration	Objectives	Outcomes expected
Braşov	Decision No. 922 regarding the approval of the partnership between the Municipality of Braşov and the University of Bucharest through the Research Center in Systemic Ecology and Sustainability	Partnership agreement	Environmental protection, social and economic development	The University of Bucharest is implementing the research project entitled LIFEWATCH, funded by the POC (Competitiveness Operational Program), aiming to develop research infrastructures at an international level	Integrated services for modelling the impact of environmental change on ecosystem processes and the services they provide; integrated services for modelling the effect on ecosystems and multi-factor interactions, as well as management and response options for implementing various policies (in the fields of agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, and even health)
	Decision no. 125/2023 on the approval of the collaboration between the Braşov City Hall and the Transylvania University of Braşov to organize and carry out the cultural project 'Cinematron Meetings', at the Astra Cinema, between March 12 – March 20, 2023	Collaboration agreement	Culture	The City Hall of Braşov shall make the Astra Cinema building available free of charge between March 12–20, 2023, through the Heritage Administration and Commercial Urban Planning Service, based on a protocol, both upon handover and upon receipt	The organization and implementation in Braşov at the Astra Cinema of the cultural project 'Cinematron Meetings' between March 12–20, 2023, which will consist of 10 film screenings that will take place in the presence of the directors and actors involved in their creation
	Decision no. 492/2022 regarding the approval of the Partnership Agreement between the Municipality of Braşov and Transylvania University Braşov for the improvement of teaching and professional training of students and the development of research - development - innovation activity;	Partnership agreement	Education	Receiving students for internship/field study activity within the Braşov City Hall and placing them in real work situations; supervision and validation of the activity by both the university teaching staff and the responsible person from the Braşov City Hall.	Improving the teaching and professional training of students; developing research – development – innovation activity; intensifying activity in alternative training systems
	Decision No. 362/2022 on the approval of the Partnership Agreement between the Municipality of Braşov, the County School Inspectorate and the 'Flame University of Applied Sciences'	Partnership agreement	Education	Development of educational projects and programs, namely the 'Braşov City Continuing Education Program for Directors and Teachers'	Participants can collaboratively identify development needs in their context and justify and communicate pedagogical, professional or institutional development. They can also evaluate and disseminate the results of development work
	Decision No. 727/ 2021 regarding the approval of the Partnership Agreement between the Municipality of Braşov and the 'Ion Mincu' University of Architecture and Urban Planning, Bucharest	Partnership agreement	Education	Facilitating by the Municipality of Braşov the offer of university-level educational services made available by the University of Architecture and Urbanism 'Ion Mincu', Bucharest (UAUIM), consisting of continuous training courses intended for employees of local public administration and employees of public institutions under the authority of the Local Council of Braşov Municipality, activities carried out with the involvement of students - workshop type or professional practice of students of the Faculty of Urbanism	Consolidating the educational offer at the level of the Metropolitan Area of Braşov Municipality
	Decision No. 252/2020 on the approval of the conclusion of a collaboration protocol between the Municipality of Braşov and the 'Henri Coandă' Air Force Academy in Braşov;	Collaboration agreement	Environmental protection	Inter-institutional cooperation to research and find solutions for improving urban air quality by collecting and monitoring complementary data to the surface network through a modular system for monitoring relevant atmospheric parameters with aerial means	Data on air quality and meteorological conditions were collected in the agreed format and frequency; annual synthesis studies on air quality and meteorological conditions in the Braşov agglomeration were based on data collected by airborne and surface sensors

Municipality	Official document	Type of collaboration	Area of collaboration	Objectives	Outcomes expected
<i>Cluj-Napoca</i>	Decision no. 256/2024, regarding the approval of the continuation of the public interest project Cluj Innovation and Experiment Fund, approved by Decision no. 666/2022, implemented by the C-EDU Education Cluster Association, for the period 2024-2025	Collaboration agreement	Youth; Education	Creating a program that encourages local social and entrepreneurial innovation with potential local impact for youth; encouraging support for social innovation	the implementation of the public interest project Cluj Innovation and Experiment Fund implemented through the C-EDU Education Cluster Association
<i>Craiova</i>	The answers to question no. 2 of the questionnaire mentioned the existence of partnerships concluded with the University of Craiova and the 'Spiru Haret' University, Craiova branch, regarding student internships. Verifying the information in the Local Official Gazette did not lead to identifying the documents according to what was stated in the questionnaire.				
<i>Constanța</i>	Decision no. 28/2021 on the conclusion of a collaboration protocol concluded between the Municipality of Constanța and Ovidius University of Constanța	Collaboration agreement	Environment, public and private domain	Valorization and conservation of dendrological material in parks	Handing over and valorizing 200 dried or cut trees from the public domain in 2 years and transforming them into art objects
<i>Iasi</i>	Decision No. 102/2023 on the approval of the partnership agreement concluded between the Municipality of Iași and the 'Alexandru Ioan Cuza' University of Iași, aiming to implement the GREEN Educational Laboratory project by developing the ERASMUS Forest	Partnership agreement	Education; environmental protection	Implementing the GREEN Educational Laboratory project by arranging the ERASMUS Forest	Not available
	Decision no. 126/2023 on the approval of a partnership agreement between the Municipality of Iași, the 'Virgil Madgearu' Economic College Iași and the Al. I. Cuza University Iași – Faculty of Orthodox Theology	Partnership agreement	Public and private domain	Unrestricted use, by the Faculty of Orthodox Theology, with the 'Virgil Madgearu' Economic College Iași, of educational spaces in the public property of the Municipality of Iași	Not available
	Decision No. 397/2023 on the approval of a partnership agreement between the Municipality of Iași, the National College of Iași, and the 'Al. I. Cuza' University of Iași – Faculty of Philosophy and Social and Political Sciences	Partnership agreement	Public and private domain	Free use by the Faculty of Philosophy and Social and Political Sciences, in common with the Iași National College, of 12 teaching spaces (B1–B12) located in building B of the high school, which are on the public property of the Municipality of Iași	Not available
<i>Iasi</i>	Decision no. 90/2022 on the approval of a partnership agreement between the Municipality of Iași, the National College of Iași and the Al. I. Cuza University of Iași – Faculty of Philosophy and Social and Political Sciences	Partnership agreement	Public and private domain	The free use, by the Faculty of Philosophy and Social and Political Sciences in common with the Iași National College, of some educational spaces located within the high school and in the public property of the Iași Municipality	Not available
<i>Oradea</i>	No answer to the questionnaire.				

Municipality	Official document	Type of collaboration	Area of collaboration	Objectives	Outcomes expected
<i>Suceava</i>	Decision No. 183/2023 approving the association between the Municipality of Suceava and the 'Ștefan cel Mare' University of Suceava as well as the necessary financing for the organization of the project '60th Anniversary of Higher Education in Suceava', which will take place between 22-25.06.2023	Association contract	Culture	The contribution to the association of the municipality of Suceava with 50,000 lei	Not available
	Decision no. 283/2023 on the approval of the participation of the Municipality of Suceava in the project 'Performance in vocational training through partnership with the economic environment for the development of the complete dual education route at USV – USV DUAL' as well as the approval of the contribution of the Municipality of Suceava in the project	Partnership agreement	Interinstitutional cooperation	Creating a complete professional route for higher technical education; The municipality's contribution of 360,000 lei	Development and endowment of at least 10 regional consortia and 10 integrated professional campuses
<i>Târgu Mureș</i>	The Cultural, Sports, Youth, and Housing Activities Service of Târgu Mureș City Hall mentioned that no partnerships were concluded with academic institutions during 2020–2024.				
<i>Timișoara</i>	The answer received was that public authorities are not obliged to prepare statements or statistics at citizens' requests.				

## Annex 2

### Request for information of public interest according to Law no. 544/2001, necessary for academic research

This request is to obtain information of public interest regarding the partnerships that the Territorial Administrative Unit (TAU) concluded during 2020-2024 with academic institutions (universities, research centers, and institutes) in the country and abroad. The information obtained will contribute to academic research, which will be materialized in a scientific article on the role of academic institutions in supporting local authorities in establishing and implementing local strategies.

To achieve the research objectives, please support us by providing answers to the following questions:

#### ***1. Please indicate the territorial-administrative unit:***

- Bucharest Municipality
- Braşov Municipality
- Cluj-Napoca Municipality
- Craiova Municipality
- Constanta Municipality
- Iasi Municipality
- Oradea Municipality
- Suceava Municipality
- Municipality of Târgu Mureş
- Timisoara Municipality

#### ***2. What are the partnerships concluded by UAT with academic institutions (universities, research centers, and institutes) in the country or abroad during 2020-2024?***

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#### ***3. From which funds were the financial resources for these partnerships provided (multiple answers):***

- European funds
- NRRP (National Recovery and Resilience Plan)
- Local budget
- National budget
- Private sponsorships

- Own contributions of partner institutions
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**4. What is the approximate value of the partnerships? Also, specify their number.**

Value/No. of partnerships	1-5	6-10 p.m.	11-20	21- 30	31-50	over 50
< 50,000 RON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
50,000 - 100,000 RON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
100,000 - 500,000 RON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
500,000 - 1,000,000 RON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
> 1,000,000 RON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**5. How many people are involved in implementing partnerships?**

- 1-2 people
- 3-5 people
- over 5 people

**6. What concrete results have been achieved due to these partnerships (e.g., strategic documents, surveys, reports, etc.)? Please mention them explicitly.**

**7. How do you rate the level of influence of these partnerships on local objectives and activities on a scale from 1 to 4?**

1 – Not at all	2 – A little	3 – Moderate	4 – High
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**8. To what extent are you interested in partnerships with academia and/or other public authorities in the next 4 years?**

1 – Not at all	2 – A little	3 – Interested	4 – Very interested
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**9. What are the areas or objectives of interest for the TAU in deciding on partnerships? (multiple answers)**

- interinstitutional cooperation;
- culture;
- urban development;
- social and economic development;
- public and private domain;

- education;
- environmental protection;
- health;
- local services;
- emergency situations;
- youth;
- Other: .... (please specify)

We assure you that the information you provide will be treated with maximum confidentiality and will be used exclusively for academic research. This will contribute to the consolidation of knowledge regarding the role of academic institutions in supporting local public administrations.

We appreciate your openness and support in obtaining this information. Please contact us if you need any clarification.