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**Abstract**

Regional engagement of universities encompasses a wide number of activities. To a large extent, the literature has emphasised innovation and technological transfer as the main focus of university partnerships. Based on a broad project data carried out in Latin America, this paper points out that social engagement is the most remarkable activity in Latin American universities. This role played by these universities is quite distinctive and could be considered a model for other regions, especially in developing countries. This paper aims to analyse how universities in Latin America interact with civil society in order to meet multiple demands and needs. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)