SDG 17

Partnerships for the Goals

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham continues to strengthen its global academic footprint through a wide network of international collaborations that advance multidisciplinary research, knowledge exchange, and capacity building. As reflected in the map, the university has active collaborations with institutions across North America (104 partnerships in the USA alone), Europe (15 collaborations across several countries), Africa (5), Australia (38), New Zealand (5), Thailand (5), and Taiwan (5). These partnerships enable joint research, faculty and student mobility, dual-degree pathways, and cross-cultural learning environments that reinforce Amrita's commitment to global sustainability and inclusive development. Many of these collaborations directly support research and innovation aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, sustainable fisheries, gender equality, healthcare innovation, robotics, and social development. Through these international networks, Amrita continues to serve as a hub for global knowledge-sharing while translating scientific advances into community impact across India.

Global MoU Frameworks Supporting Academic Excellence

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham maintains an extensive portfolio of formal Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with leading universities, research institutes, and global organisations. As illustrated in the MoU map, the university has signed 74 international MoUs spanning North America, Europe, Australia, Asia, and

Africa. These include 26 MoUs with institutions in the United States, as well as partnerships in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Ireland, Finland, Hungary, Belgium, Japan, Taiwan, Turkey, Iran, Nepal, Israel, Sri Lanka, and Australia. Each MoU serves as a framework for strategic collaboration—facilitating joint degree programs, faculty exchange, student internships, collaborative research laboratories, and global immersion programs such as Live-in-Labs®. Many of these partnerships support cutting-edge research themes including climate action, sustainable technologies, water and

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Esri, TomTom, FAO, NOAA, USGS

INTERNATIONAL MoUs

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sanitation, renewable energy, public health, machine learning, marine ecosystems, and humanitarian engineering. The breadth of Amrita's global MoU network reflects the university's mission of serving society through compassion-driven research and its standing as one of India's most internationally connected institutions.

17.1 Strengthening Healthcare Partnerships for a Sustainable Future: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham's Collaborative Endeavour with AIIMS Bhopal

In April 2024, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham reaffirmed its enduring commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 17 — "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development" — through a landmark academic and research collaboration between the Amrita School of Medicine and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhopal.

This strategic partnership reflects Amrita's vision of fostering cross-institutional cooperation to advance healthcare innovation, medical education, and translational research for societal benefit.

By engaging in this knowledge-sharing initiative, the university continues to strengthen its role as a catalyst for collaborative growth in the national and global health ecosystem.

The interactive session that marked this collaboration provided a dynamic platform for mutual learning and exchange of expertise. It focused on enhancing interdisciplinary medical research, promoting evidence-based clinical practices, and identifying new avenues for capacity building in healthcare education. The discussions emphasized the importance of collaboration between leading academic institutions to collectively address emerging healthcare challenges and bridge research-to-practice gaps.

A key highlight of the event was the mutual appreciation of institutional strengths and shared research achievements, symbolizing a unified approach to advancing medical science and education. The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Amrita School of Medicine and AIIMS Bhopal lays the groundwork for future collaborations in areas such as biomedical innovation, digital health, and public health research.

This initiative exemplifies Amrita's holistic approach to education and research — combining academic excellence, compassion-driven healthcare, and technological innovation to achieve sustainable societal outcomes. Through such partnerships, the university continues to build strong networks of cooperation that transcend institutional boundaries, embodying the true spirit of SDG 17.

By leveraging collective knowledge

and fostering meaningful partnerships, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham continues to advance the shared global agenda of equitable and sustainable healthcare for all.

17.2 Strengthening Global Partnerships in Research, Sustainability, and Innovation: European Union Delegation Visits Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham

In December 2024, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham hosted a high-level delegation from the European Union at its Kochi and Amritapuri campuses to explore opportunities for collaboration in research, education, and innovation. The visit, led by Mr. Pierrick Fillon-Ashida, First Counsellor

and Head of Research & Innovation at the European Union Delegation to India, reflected a shared commitment between Amrita and the European Union toward advancing sustainable development, technological progress, and academic excellence through global partnerships.

The discussions centered on strengthening collaborative frameworks in key thematic areas such as artificial intelligence, renewable energy, healthcare, sustainability, and social innovation.

The EU delegation introduced several collaborative platforms and funding mechanisms, including a €60 million fund dedicated to joint research projects between EU and Indian institutions. Initiatives such as the Think Swiss Scholarships, Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships, and the EURAXESS India Platform were presented as valuable channels for academic and research exchanges.

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham faculty showcased the university's pioneering work in AI-driven healthcare, renewable energy solutions, sustainable water management, and circular economy models, aligning with European priorities in innovation and green transformation. These discussions opened pathways for co-developing interdisciplinary projects, faculty exchange programs, and joint capacity-building initiatives aimed at addressing shared global challenges.

The Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) was highlighted as a promising avenue for multi-sectoral collaboration across 56 countries in domains such as women's empowerment, sustainable textiles, food systems, digital innovation, and environmental resilience. The delegation also presented European advancements in EV battery recycling, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) management, and One Health initiatives, demonstrating synergy with Amrita's existing research ecosystem and community-based sustainability programs.

This visit reaffirmed Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham's strategic vision of fostering impactful global partnerships under SDG 17 – "Partnerships for the Goals." By integrating academic expertise

with international innovation networks, Amrita aims to create co-learning environments that promote sustainable technologies, inclusive education, and equitable development.

To strengthen these ties further, Amrita will organize dedicated online sessions to connect its researchers with European counterparts, facilitating joint proposal development and collaborative projects under EU-India cooperation programs. Through this initiative, Amrita continues to exemplify its commitment to global knowledge exchange, advancing India's role in international sustainability collaborations, and shaping resilient solutions for a better future.

17.3 ARISE 2024: Fostering Innovation and Collaborative Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development

In August 2024, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham organized ARISE 2024 – the Annual Startup Festival, a flagship initiative aimed at strengthening innovation ecosystems through collaboration, entrepreneurship, and sustainability. The event served as a dynamic platform that united local innovators, early-stage entrepreneurs, social enterprises, industry mentors, investors, and community stakeholders under a shared vision of inclusive and sustainable growth.

ARISE 2024 was structured around three key objectives: promoting entrepreneurial partnerships, advancing sustainable business models, and enabling social impact innovation. Through a series of pitch competitions, design-thinking workshops, networking sessions, and expert panel discussions, participants explored ways to address global and local challenges through technology-enabled, socially responsible solutions.

The festival emphasized co-creation and cross-sectoral collaboration, aligning strongly with the spirit of SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals. Participants engaged with mentors from academia, industry, and government incubators who provided strategic guidance on business model development, scaling strategies, and sustainable financing mechanisms. The event also featured thought-provoking sessions on ethical entrepreneurship, social innovation financing, women-led startups, and digital transformation for rural inclusion, reflecting Amrita's mission of integrating innovation with compassion and social responsibility.

A highlight of ARISE 2024 was the startup pitch competition, where young entrepreneurs showcased transformative ideas addressing sectors such as clean energy, health tech, circular economy, and rural livelihoods. The top three winners received seed funding of ₹100,000, ₹75,000, and ₹50,000 respectively, alongside incubation support and mentorship opportunities within Amrita's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. These support mechanisms aim to nurture early-stage ideas into scalable ventures that contribute

meaningfully to sustainable development goals.

Beyond the competition, the design-thinking and co-innovation workshops encouraged participants to apply human-centered design approaches to real-world sustainability problems. The workshops facilitated interdisciplinary collaboration among students, faculty, and industry experts, reinforcing Amrita's commitment to knowledge-sharing and innovation-driven social change.

Through ARISE 2024, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham continues to demonstrate how academic institutions can act as convening hubs for multi-stakeholder partnerships, bridging the gap between academia, industry, and society. The festival not only empowered young innovators but also strengthened networks that drive inclusive entrepreneurship and sustainable economic growth.

In alignment with SDG 17, ARISE 2024 exemplifies Amrita's dedication to advancing global partnerships that leverage knowledge, technology, and resources to create long-term, equitable solutions for communities across India and beyond.

In March 2024, a representative from Amrita University's UNESCO Chair on Gender Equality participated in the International Women's Day conference in Paris, organized by the former Ministry for Women's Rights, exploring how women are being empowered through spiritual leadership, shared insights from diverse voices, and highlighted pathways for transformational change. The conference and the initiatives discussed focus on enabling women to take on leadership roles, improving access to education, livelihoods, safety, and health.

In May 2024, Dr. Bhavani Rao, UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, was an invited speaker at the "Shaping Research Agenda of the Social and Human Sciences in Asia-Pacific" conference held in Bangkok, Thailand. Organized by UNESCO and AASSREC, the conference brought together academics and policymakers to discuss future research directions. Dr. Rao's presentation emphasized culturally grounded gender equality strategies and the inclusion of men and boys in gender initiatives, showcasing Amrita's collaborative field projects and academic contributions.

On International Women's Day 2024, Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, Chancellor

of Amrita, delivered the keynote at Femina Vox, a global online forum for women's rights, hosted by UNESCO Artist for Peace, Dr. Guila Clara Kessous. Held under the High Patronage of UNESCO and the Global Peace Education Network, the event

brought together international leaders and peace advocates to promote gender equality and social justice.

The Global Spirituality Mahotsav, organized by India's Ministry of Culture in March 2024 in Hyderabad, brought together over 300 spiritual leaders from 100+ countries to promote peace through inner transformation. Amma (Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi) delivered a keynote message, represented on-site by Prof. Bhavani Rao, emphasizing compassion, spiritual awakening, and the integration of spirituality into everyday life.
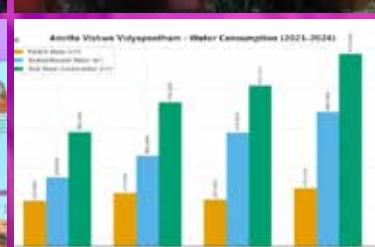
1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

> *The path to a truly sustainable world lies not only in advancing technology but in nurturing our shared compassion and respect for all life. When science, spirituality, and love for the Earth unite, humanity can flourish in harmony with nature. True progress is not measured by what we can consume or create but by the wisdom with which we care for each other and our planet.*

~ Satguru Mata Amritanandamayi Devi
Chancellor, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham