The World Health Organization (WHO) held an expert panel meeting on the use of Potassium Iodate (KI) thyroid blocking in radiological and nuclear emergencies in Pisa, Italy, from 11th to 13th of January, 2016.

Dr. Elie Akl, the director of the AUB GRADE Center, participated in the meeting as a guideline methodologist and a co-chair of the panel of experts.

The main objective of the meeting was to revise the WHO 1999 guidelines for “Iodine Prophylaxis following Nuclear Accidents”, particularly in light of recent radiological emergencies like the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident in March 2011.

The goal of the revised guidelines is to assist Member States to develop national policies that are based on the best available evidence.

Dr. Akl contributed in 2013 to the development of WHO guidelines on public health response to radiation emergencies.

The AUB GRADE Center is part of network of evidence synthesis and translation network at AUB that also includes the Clinical Epidemiology Unit (CEU), the Center for Systematic Reviews in Health Policy and Systems Research (SPARK), and the Knowledge to Policy (K2P) center, a WHO collaborating center.