The World Health Organization (WHO) Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) organized an expert consultation on evidence-based guideline development and adaptation in Cairo, Egypt, from 18 to 19 November 2015.

The meeting organizers invited Dr. Elie Akl, the director of the AUB GRADE center, to participate as an expert, and Dr. Andrea Darzi to attend as an observer. Indeed, members of the AUB GRADE center are conducting leading work in adaptation of guideline methodology. The center has been involved in guideline adaptation projects with the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, entities in Lebanon and the region and currently with RARE Best practices and the European union.

Evidence-based guidelines are intended to guide health policy-makers, health care practitioners and consumers in making informed health decisions based on the best available evidence and consensus among experts. Given the contextual differences across settings, internationally developed guidelines need to be adapted at the regional or country level to ensure better uptake and implementation.

A main objective of the meeting was to advise EMRO on the framework of action to assist in promoting adaptation of globally developed evidence-based guidelines and development of guidelines in areas of priority needs, as well as supporting their implementation in practice.

The AUB GRADE center, along with other centers of excellence in the region, has committed to support future guideline adaptation and development initiatives led by EMRO.