

For Immediate Release



WHO designates AUB's Knowledge to Policy (K2P) Center as first collaborating center for evidence-informed policy and practice in the region

Beirut, Lebanon- 23/04/2015 -The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated the Knowledge to Policy-K2P-Center as a WHO Collaborating Center for Evidence-Informed Policy and Practice. This designation, which is effective for a period of four years, is unique, since the K2P Center is the only WHO Collaborating Center for Evidence-Informed Policy and Practice in Lebanon and the region, and is the second WHO Collaborating Center of this kind globally after McMaster Health Forum in Canada.

The designation marked by WHO's reference number (LEB-6) stands as a recognition of K2P's outstanding impact-oriented approach in terms of synthesizing and translating evidence on public health and engaging stakeholders to impact policy and action at the national and regional level.

Established by and hosted at the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut, the K2P Center is mainly funded by the International Development Research Center (IDRC). K2P is affiliated with the McMaster Health Forum in Canada and is supported by the Forum's work in terms of some approaches and tools designed to influence policy agendas and actions. K2P Director is Dr. Fadi El-Jardali and the Associate Director is Dr. Rima Nakkash.

The K2P Center produces a variety of products from policy briefs, to briefing notes, evidence summaries, and dialogue summaries that are finely catered to the needs of policymakers and stakeholders.

The K2P provides a rapid response service and media bites. The media bite product is a unique service provided to assist journalists and media personnel in evidence-based health reporting.

K2P also conducts targeted capacity building workshops for policymakers and stakeholders, researchers, civil society groups, NGOs, media and international agencies to increase the capacity of making better-informed decisions that will ultimately improve the overall health status of citizens.

The terms of reference of the newly designated WHO Collaborating Center are:

1. Conduct priority setting to identify policy-relevant priorities for evidence synthesis and knowledge translation products

2. Build capacity in the production of evidence synthesis and knowledge translation products
3. Produce evidence synthesis and knowledge translation products (e.g. systematic reviews, rapid reviews, guidelines, evidence briefs, evidence / SUPPORT summaries, guidance documents), prepare workbooks for the identified products, and conduct dialogues

To achieve the above activities, the K2P Center collaborates with several other centers from the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Based on the joint collaborations between the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) and the Faculty of Medicine (FM), the WHO Collaborating Center for Evidence-informed Policy and Practice will be co-directed by Dr. Fadi El-Jardali (FHS) and Dr. Elie Akl (FM).

For more information:

<http://www.aub.edu.lb/k2p/Pages/index.aspx>

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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