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SEMI-NUC project: “Prospective cohort study of residents living near the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site – feasibility assessment”

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) announces the launch of the web site for the SEMI-NUC project: “Prospective cohort study of residents living near the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site – feasibility assessment”.

The two-year project is coordinated by the Section of Environment and Radiation at IARC and supported by the European Commission Euratom [FP7 grant No 323310](#).

The Semipalatinsk nuclear test site (SNTS) is located in the north-east of Kazakhstan near the city of Semey, previously known as Semipalatinsk, where from 1949 to 1989 the Soviet Union conducted 456 nuclear tests. Some of these releases caused radioactive plumes that exposed people and territories adjacent to the site.

The SEMI-NUC project brings together scientists from Europe, Kazakhstan, and Japan with the aim of developing a proposal for the establishment of a cohort of residents living around the SNTS, to examine various long-term health effects from chronic exposure to low and moderate doses of ionizing radiation. To achieve this, SEMI-NUC will evaluate issues relating to both epidemiological outcomes and dosimetry, which underpins all radiation-effect studies.

At the end of the project, a report, summarizing the results of the feasibility assessment for a future integrated cohort study, will be developed and submitted for evaluation to the External Advisory Board.

The project web site aims to engage stakeholders (the general public, funding bodies, and international organizations) in assessing the possible impact of the proposed research on a better understanding of the effects of low-dose and low-dose-rate radiation and implications for public health decision-making.

[Visit website](#)