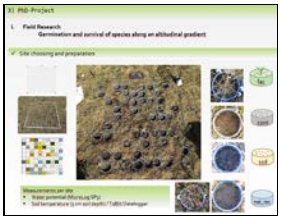
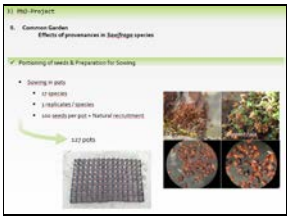
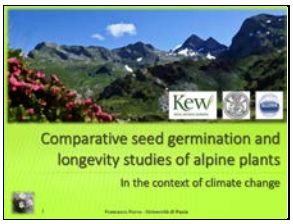
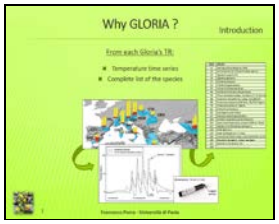
Research on the way!

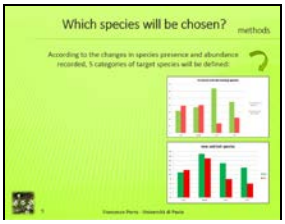
The European Alpine Seed Conservation and Research Network organized the first PhD workshop in Innsbruck on November 30th 2016. The three PhD students presented their research aims and questions, hypotheses, study sites and methods. One master thesis will also be imbedded in the project.

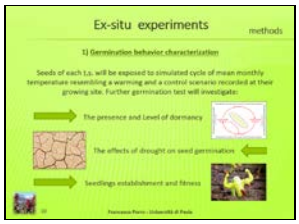




Vera Margreiter MSc (PhD student in Innsbruck), explained her field experiment, dealing with germination and establishment of species along an elevation gradient. Facilitation-, soil-, and seed provenance effects will be tested at 2000 m, 2300 m, 2600 m, and 2900 m a.s.l. in the Central Austrian Alps (Obergurgl, Oetztal, Tyrol). Common garden experiments comparing different provenances of *Saxifraga* species will be carried out at the Botanical Garden in Innsbruck. Additionally, germination of all species will be tested in the growth chamber.

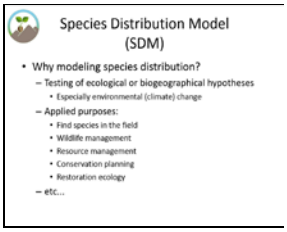


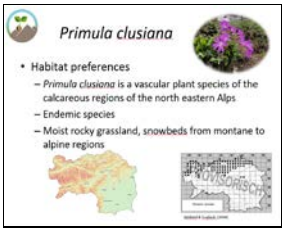


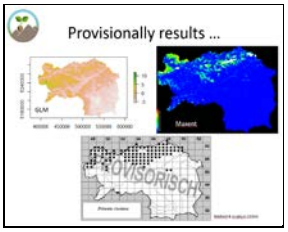




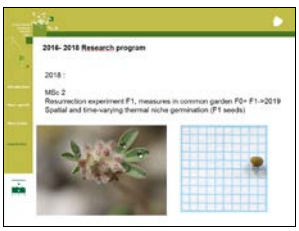
Francesco Porro MSc (PhD student in Pavia), highlighted the necessity to analyse seeds and seedlings and their response to climate change. Starting from the data collected by the European project GLORIA (www.gloria.ac.at), he will select target species and clarify germination, seedling survival as well as longevity of seeds. Five categories of species will be chosen: species increasing in abundance, species decreasing with time, species with no changes, species that disappeared, and newly arriving species.







Mag. Patrick Schwager (PhD student in Graz), will focus on distribution models of rare and endangered plant species. He uses vegetation relevés from Austrian databases, his own field relevés, climate data, and digital elevation models. He showed already first results to simulate the actual distribution of *Primula clusiana*, an endemic species of the North-Eastern Calcareous Alps.



Dr Noémie Fort (Conservatoire Botanique National Alpin, Gap) presented their research program, which will focus on the question if *Trifolium saxatile* is tending to biannuality as an adaptive response to global change. One master student will carry out the resurrection experiment F0 in the common garden, with measurements and seed collections. Sowing of the seeds for the F1 resurrection experiment will be performed in order to study demography and regeneration traits of the species.