**Plant conservation activities at germplasm bank of the University of Pavia**

Plant Germplasm Bank of the University of Pavia (UPSB) is based at the Department of Earth and Environmental Science (Botanic Garden). Our mission is to maintain high levels of agro-biodiversity and preserve the natural environment through ex situ conservation of wild and cultivated plants (landraces). Particular attention is given to plants that are endangered, useful for Mankind like Crop Wild Relatives (CWR), medicinal plants and species useful for floriculture. Seed collection and conservation activities are carried out following international seed bank standards (i.e. freezing at -18°C, after drying at 15°C and 15% RH), to maximize seed longevity in storage. So far, about 1300 accessions have been stored, belonging to more than 500 species. The seed bank is also equipped with a germination laboratory for base and applied research activities, carried out in partnership with industries and international research centers through Italian and European projects (see for e.g. the EU-FP7 project NASSTEC [www.nasstec.eu](http://www.nasstec.eu) and the Alpine Seed Conservation and Research Network <http://www.alpineseedconservation.eu/>). Subsample of seeds are used for plant reintroduction (e.g. *Leucojum aestivum*), population reinforcement (Cariplo BIOPA) and habitat restorations (Wetlife Anfibia).



To further safeguard our seed samples, most of our accessions are duplicates into other seed banks, such as the Millennium Seed Bank (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew UK) which houses more than 10% of the global biodiversity. Our seed bank is part of the European Native Seed Conservation Network (ENSCONET Consortium, http://ensconet.maich.gr/) and participates, as representative for Italy, to the global project of ex situ CWR conservation supported by the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the Government of Norway (http: //www.cwrdiversity .org / project /).

Responsible: Andrea Mondoni

**Excursion itinerary**

A visit of the laboratories of the Plant Germplasm Bank including the germination lab and the seed processing and storage rooms. Visit is implemented with a concise outline of the conservation standards, facilities and ongoing conservation projects, including main recent research interest and outputs. Finally, a visit at Flora Conservation, a farm involved in the production of native herbaceous plants, born as University spin-off with the aim to open a market on the use of native flora for habitat restoration and plant population reinforcement.