

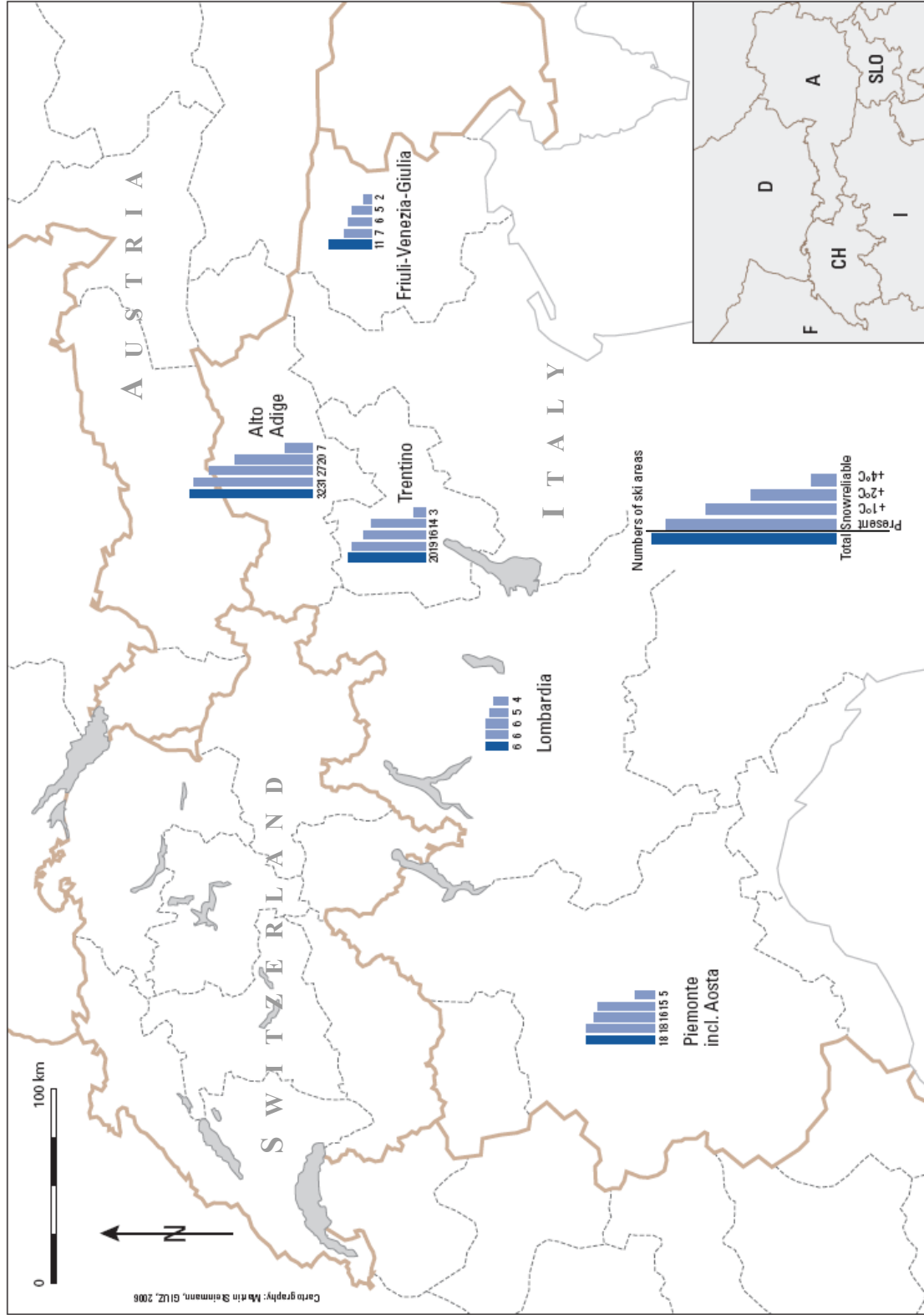
ITALY

In general, the Italian ski areas are characterised by high altitudinal ranges. This is not only due to the access to high Alpine sites, especially in the Northwest, where the highest massifs of the Alps, the Mont Blanc and Monte Rosa, can be found, but also because of the rather high base points of many ski areas. As in France, there are quite a few ski areas starting from high-elevation villages, or from resorts specifically developed for winter sports, with Sestrière being the most famous.

The high altitudes of the ski areas are responsible for a relatively high degree of natural snow-reliability. If the line of natural snow-reliability were to rise by 300 m (plus 2°C by 2050), the percentage of naturally snow-reliable ski areas in the Italian Alps would drop to 68%. However, there is a gradual decrease in natural snow-reliability from West to East, with the ski areas in Piemonte (in particular the ones in Valle d'Aosta) and Lombardia being the most snow-reliable (83% for both regions), followed by Trentino (70%) and Alto Adige/South Tyrol (63%). In Friuli/Venezia/Giulia the ski areas are more sensitive, with 45% of them becoming unreliable with a 300 m increase in the line of natural snow-reliability.

See snow-reliability map at the back

Number of naturally snow-reliable ski areas in the Italian Alps under present and future climate conditions



Note: A = Austria, CH = Switzerland, D = Germany, F = France, I = Italy, SLO = Slovenia