3 Distribution of permafrost in the Alps (example of Austria)

Solutions:

1. The areas with possible occurrence of discontinuous permafrost are situated exclusively in the highest parts of the Austrian high mountains. In the Central and Northern Alps discontinuous permafrost occurs in large areas, besides only in mountain ranges, whose summits are higher than 2500 m. Discontinuous permafrost can generally be expected above a mean altitude of 2500 m.

2. Permafrost is a phenomenon which depends on temperature conditions. Because temperature decreases with altitude, the possibility of the occurrence of permafrost increases in the same direction. Other aspects influencing the distribution of permafrost (e. g. exposures) are not visible in the map because of its scale.

3. The current glaciers are situated within the „areas of possible occurrence of discontinuous permafrost“ – and of course also intact rock glaciers, which are restricted to the areas of discontinuous permafrost.