



Has climatic change in Europe changed its pace?

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There are many studies documenting long-term changes (trends) in climatic elements over various regions of the world in the time frame of several tens of years. However, studies examining whether the trends evolve in time, are lacking. Here we fill this gap by calculating trends of temperature and precipitation for 20- and 25-year sliding periods since 1961 for a large number of stations in Europe. Station data from the ECA database are used for this purpose. Separate analyses are conducted for individual seasons. We demonstrate that the rate of warming has changed in Europe, that the changes are spatially coherent, but different in different parts of the European continent. For example in central Europe, the warming has slowed down by a considerable extent in winter recently, whereas the autumn trends have turned from zero or slightly negative to significantly positive.