



How does the climate change modify everyday life of Poles?

Malgorzata Szwed

Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute for Agricultural and Forest Environment, Poznan, Poland (mszwed@man.poznan.pl)

Different aspects of the climate change, and of the global warming in particular, have been a concern for scientists, politicians, decision-makers and planners for many years. Poles, as the society, got used to these issues. The climate change observed within the last decades is unquestionable. Every adult Pole must have observed it and knows it either from his/her own experience or from the memories of parents or grandparents.

This research presents the general view of the climate change, understood as change in the thermal conditions and precipitation, in Poland over the period of the last sixty years. Real daily and monthly data of mean temperature, precipitation and the depth of snow cover for 30 meteorological stations were used for analysis. Long-term changes in time series of meteorological variables were demonstrated by their characteristics in 10-year periods. Trends were detected based on parametric and nonparametric tests, such as linear regression and Mann-Kendall test.

Next, based on the statements given by representatives of different generation of Poles, this study attempts to answer the question of what climate change has the average Pole observed. In which seasons were the biggest changes observed? How did the climate change influence everyday life of Poles? What habits of our grandparents were changed as a result of the climate change e.g. changes in forms of the physical activity of Poles or family budget (e.g. expenses on the flat heating), etc. Finally, based on Statistical Office data and other economic studies, this research tries to track impact of climate change in “dry numbers”, e.g. referring to expenses of an average household.