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## RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SUNSHINE DURATION AND AIR TEMPERATURE IN POLAND

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### Abstract

The aim of the paper is to characterize the trends of sunshine duration (*SDU*) and air temperature in Poland, which may help understand the mechanism of contemporary climate change. The daily totals of *SDU* and daily data on air temperature from the years 1971-2020, from 25 synoptic stations in Poland are the basic source data. The series of records of the two variables showed that the points of change in the level of stabilization of the value of *SDU* and air temperature are close to each other, and confirm known in the literature “global dimming” and “global brightening” periods. The linear regression model confirmed that sunshine duration explains well the variability of, and increase in day-time air temperature in Poland in the warm part of the year.

### Key words

global warming • climate change • sunshine duration • air temperature • trends • Poland

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### Introduction

The global rise in air temperature is one of the most important problems in the modern world. The warming of the climate system is indisputable (IPCC, 2021). In each of the last three

decades, the temperature at the Earth’s surface was higher than in the preceding decade and, at the same time, higher than in any of the preceding decades since 1850. According to the Copernicus Report (2021), 2020 was the warmest year in the history of measurements

in Europe and in the world (ex aequo with the year 2016). Other years of the last decade, such as 2012 (Dong et al., 2013), 2015 (Hoy et al., 2016; Luterbacher et al., 2016) and 2018 (Sinclair et al., 2019; Twardosz, 2019) were anomalously warm in Europe.

The increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (Sippel et al., 2016; IPCC, 2021) due to human activity, is the most often mentioned cause of “global warming”. However, the relationship between the occurrence of heat waves, e.g. in 2015 and 2018, and atmospheric circulation (Sinclair et al., 2019; Twardosz, 2019), and an increase in sunshine duration (Kossowska-Cezak & Twardosz, 2019; Marsz & Styszyńska, 2019) have also been pointed out. Yet another view is presented by Sutton and Dong (2012) as well as Marsz and Styszyńska (2019), who claim that the increase in sunshine duration and warming in Europe is largely determined by changes in the thermal state of the World Ocean Waters (von Schuckmann et al., 2020). Moreover, Marsz et al. (2022) suggested that long-term variability in sunshine duration over Central Europe was due to changes in the annual frequency of macrotypes of the middle-tropospheric circulation and the variability in the surface component of the thermohaline circulation in the North Atlantic (NA THC). The influence of atmospheric circulation on changes in spatial variability of air temperature in Poland was shown, e.g. by Kejna and Rudzki (2021).

According to the Copernicus Report (2021), total sunshine duration across Europe has shown a clear upward trend over the past 40 years. Across Europe as a whole, sunshine duration reached a new record high in 2020, of 86 hours above average, which is slightly more than the 76 hours above average recorded in 2015 and 2019. In almost all of Europe, the sunshine durations throughout the year were higher than the long-term average, while cloudiness was below the average during the first six months. Anomalously high totals of annual sunshine duration were the highest in the area from northern France to Central Europe and most of Eastern Europe.

Also, the results of the research conducted in Poland on the basis of ground and satellite data in the years 1983-2018 indicate a significant increase in the total of sunshine duration in Poland in the spring and summer (Matuszko et al., 2020).

The purpose of this paper is to characterize the trends in sunshine duration (*SDU*) and air temperature and to determine the relationship between them based 50 years of data (1971-2020) in Poland. An analysis of the relationship between the long-term course of these two climate elements using data from 25 stations located in Central Europe may help understand the mechanism of contemporary climate change and explain its causes. According to Brázdil et al. (1994), changes in sunshine duration during the period of global warming should be of particular interest. As we know, changes in the solar energy supply to the ground are a direct cause of changes in air temperature. The current climatological literature often ignores the relationship between sunshine duration and air temperature. Our study is unique in covering the whole country of Poland, and using data from 50 years, which coincide with a period of a simultaneous increase in sunshine duration and temperature. The use of data from 25 stations located in various regions of the country will make it possible to indicate whether the trends in sunshine duration and air temperature are the same for the whole country, whether they occur throughout the whole year, or only in selected months.

## Data and methodology

The daily totals of sunshine duration and daily data on air temperature from the years 1971-2020, from 25 synoptic stations (Fig. 1; Tab. 1) in Poland are the basic source data. The stations belong to the state meteorological service and operate under the *Institute of Meteorology and Water Management – National Research Institute* (IMGW-PIB). Only information from stations that met the criterion of continuity of the data series, without breaks, or with slight gaps that could

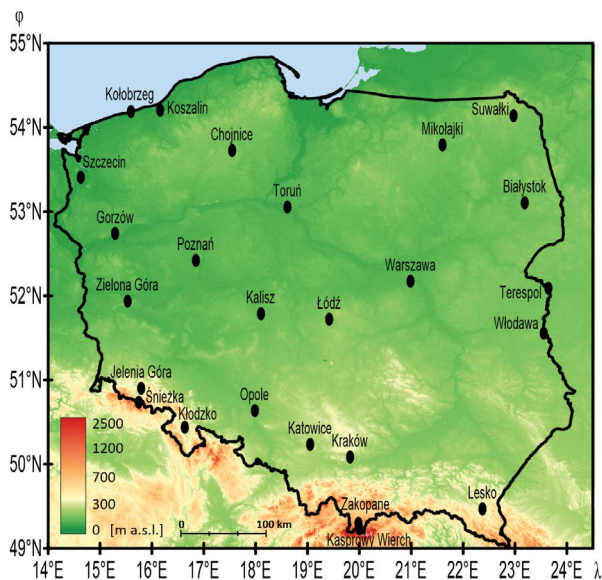


Figure 1. The location of meteorological stations used in the study

Table 1. Coordinates of the stations included in the study

No.	Meteorological station	Altitude (m a.s.l.)	Latitude $\phi$	Longitude $\lambda$
1	Białystok	148	53°06'	23°10'
2	Chojnice	165	53°43'	17°32'
3	Gorzów Wlkp.	71	52°44'	15°17'
4	Jelenia Góra	342	50°54'	15°47'
5	Kalisz	137	51°47'	18°05'
6	Kasprowy Wierch	1991	49°14'	19°59'
7	Katowice	278	50°14'	19°02'
8	Kłodzko	356	50°26'	16°37'
9	Kołobrzeg	3	54°11'	15°35'
10	Koszalin	33	54°12'	16°09'
11	Kraków* UJ Obs. Kraków Balice	206 237	50°04' 50°05'	19°58' 19°48'
12	Lesko	420	49°28'	22°21'
13	Łódź-Lublinek	180	51°43'	19°24'
14	Mikołajki	127	53°47'	21°35'
15	Opole	163	50°38'	17°58'
16	Poznań	88	52°25'	16°50'
17	Suwałki	184	54°08'	22°57'
18	Szczecin Dąbie	1	53°24'	14°37'
19	Śnieżka	1603	50°44'	15°44'
20	Terespol	133	52°05'	23°37'
21	Toruń	69	53°03'	18°36'
22	Warszawa Bielany Warszawa Okęcie**	100 106	52°17' 52°10'	20°58' 20°58'
23	Włodawa	177	51°33'	23°32'
24	Zakopane	855	49°18'	19°58'
25	Zielona Góra	192	51°56'	15°31'

Note:  
 \* Kraków UJ Obs. – sunshine duration;  
 Kraków Balice – air temperature  
 \*\* Warszawa Bielany – sunshine duration;  
 Warszawa Okęcie – air temperature

be supplemented on the basis of data from neighbouring stations was used. In addition, efforts were made to ensure that the distribution of stations was as even as possible throughout the country. In the case of Kraków and Warszawa, the data on sunshine duration come from stations located in the city centre (Kraków, Jagiellonian University Observatory; Warszawa, Bielany district), while the data on temperatures come from airport stations (Kraków Balice, Warszawa Okęcie). It was necessary to use information from these additional stations because 'city' stations did not provide temperature measurements from 8 points in time. Most of the meteorological stations represent typical conditions for suburban areas, and two of them (the summits of Kasprowy Wierch and Śnieżka) are high-mountain stations with a climate characteristic of a free atmosphere. All the stations from which data were used operate in accordance with the WMO (2010) and IMGW-PIB (2015).

At most stations of IMGW-PIB until the end of 2013, sunshine duration was measured using a traditional Campbell-Stokes heliograph, and since 2014 the instrument has been changed to automatic at 19 of them (CSD1 and CSD3 from Kipp & Zonen). At the stations at Kasprowy Wierch, Kraków Obs. UJ, Poznań, Śnieżka, Warszawa-Bielany, and Gorzów data still come from a traditional Campbell-Stokes heliograph. At each station, sunshine duration measuring instruments are installed in a place that guarantees access to sunlight throughout the year, usually on a tower equipped with stairs, or on the roof of a building. In order to ascertain the highest quality of data, a thorough process of selection of synoptic station was applied. The heliographic materials obtained from IMGW-PIB were analysed in detail in terms of the instrument used, length of the measurement sequence, breaks in data recording, current measurements, and data correctness. Fifty stations with sufficiently long data series (since 1971) were separated from all the 168 stations measuring sunshine duration in Poland. After supplementing the missing data and as a result of further verification

of materials, 25 synoptic stations at which temperature series were also homogeneous qualified for selection. Small data gaps were supplemented using the method of similarity to the nearest station. Errors in the value of the daily total of actual sunshine duration consisting in exceeding the length of the day were eliminated using the formula of Forsythe et al. (1995) for the length of the day. For the series of data from stations where the measuring instrument was changed in 2014, a statistical analysis was performed, which showed that the conversion of data from automatic instruments to a traditional heliograph did not result in statistically significant differences in most cases; in other words, adding 'automatic' data to the data from the heliograph did not significantly affect the inclination of the linear time trend.

Up to the end of 2004, mercury thermometers were used for air temperature measurements at the synoptic stations included in the study. Since 2005, Pt100 resistance temperature detectors, which use resistance changes resulting from temperature changes, have been used. Throughout the whole period, the instruments were placed in a Stevenson screen at a height of 2 m above the ground. Comparative studies have shown good compliance of the indications of both types of instruments, and the change in the measurement method did not affect the breaking of the homogeneity of the measurement series (Lorenc, 2006). The air temperature measurement series in the years 1971-2020 contained only a few gaps. The longest, a 20-month period of lack of data concerned the station in Mikołajki (1992-1993). Other gaps included single days or single observations. Missing data were supplemented by the regression method using data from neighbouring stations (Stahl et al., 2006).

The verification of series of records of sunshine duration and air temperature was carried out first. Next, monthly totals of actual sunshine duration were calculated based on daily totals. In the case of air temperature, the 'daylight average' was calculated according to the author's method (Bartoszek et al.,

2020), which consisted of calculating average temperatures at the following times of the day depending on the season:

- summer (May-June-July) – 06:00, 09:00, 12:00, 15:00, 18:00 UTC
- winter (November-December-January) – 09:00, 12:00, 15:00 UTC
- transitional (February-March-April and August-September-October) – 06:00, 09:00, 12:00, 15:00 UTC

This method of calculating the averages eliminated temperatures before sunrise and after sunset (without sunshine duration).

Based on the 'daily' temperature, monthly averages for individual stations were calculated, followed by area averages. Data interpolation was performed using the ordinary kriging method, using the Golden Software's Surfer 16 program. The maps show the values and statistical significance of the linear trend slope coefficients of sunshine duration (hr/10 years) and air temperature (°C/10 years) at the analysed meteorological stations. The statistical significance of the trends of the analysed variables was assessed using the Mann-Kendall test, and the magnitude of changes over time (directional coefficient) was calculated using the Sen method (Sen, 1968; Kendall, 1975).

The last stage of the study comprised analyses of the relationships between the area-average monthly day-time air temperature and sunshine duration, which were aimed at interpreting the trends in air temperature in Poland. To explain the temporal variability of the area-average day-time air temperature (1971-2020),  $T_m$ , in the month  $m$ ,  $m = 1, 2, \dots, 12$ , the following linear regression model was adopted:

$$T_m = b_{0,m} + b_{1,m} SDU_m + \epsilon_m, m = 1, 2, \dots, 12 \quad (1)$$

where:

$T_m$  – area-average day-time air temperature in the month  $m$  in °C

$b_{0,m}, b_{1,m}$  – regression coefficients

$SDU_m$  – area-average monthly sunshine duration in the month  $m$  in hours

$\epsilon_m$  – uncorrelated model residuals,  $N(0, \sigma_m)$  distributed

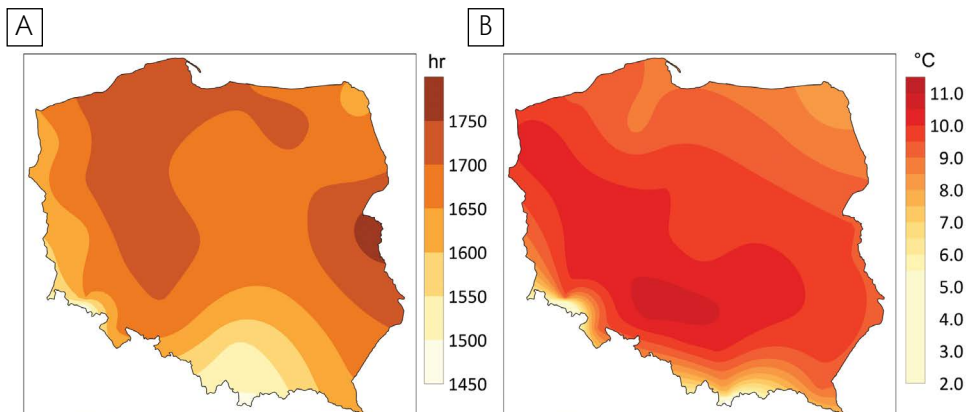
The parameters of the model (1) were calculated by the least squares method applied to linear regression of  $T$  on  $SDU$ . The fitting quality was determined using the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) and root mean square error (RMSE).

## Results

### Spatial distribution of the sums of annual $SDU$ and the average annual air temperature in Poland

Annual totals of sunshine duration are between around 1,460 hours in the south and south-west of the country (mountain areas) to more than 1,750 hours in the north – the area of the eastern Baltic coast (Fig. 2A). One area of large sunshine duration (over 1,700 hours) stretches in a wedge-like fashion to the south of the central part of the South Baltic Coast to the Silesian Lowland. Another area with the highest sunshine duration value (over 1,750) is located in the central-eastern part of Poland. In the largest area of the country, the central part of Poland, sunshine duration is between 1,650 to 1,700 hours per year, and gradually decreases from the centre towards the south-west, south, and north-east. A wedge-like area of reduced sunshine duration stretches from the mountainous areas to the centre of the country along the Vistula valley. The areas on the north-eastern edges of Poland have lower sunshine duration values compared to neighbouring areas.

The average annual day-time air temperature in Poland is between 11°C in Silesia to 0°C in the mountainous regions in the south and south-west of the country. Generally, the temperature decreases from the south-west towards the north-east. The spatial variability of the average annual temperature in Poland (except for mountainous areas) does not exceed 3°C. The area with the highest temperature values (above 10°C) stretches from the western end of the Pomeranian Lake District, through the Wielkopolska Lowland, to Silesia. Apart from mountainous and upland regions, the lowest (< 8°C) average annual temperature, as in the case



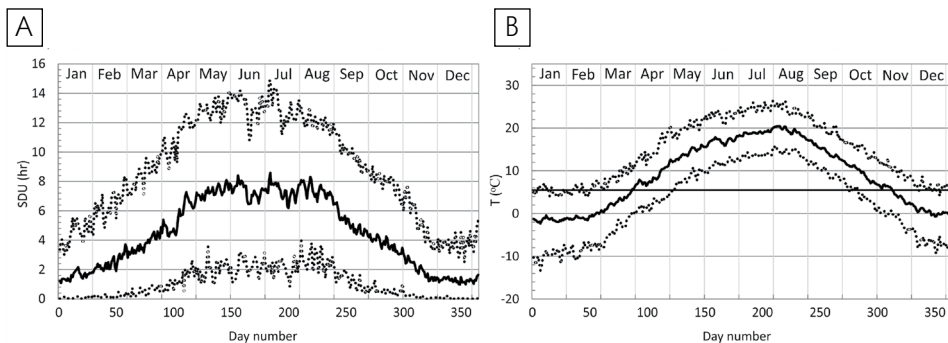
**Figure 2.** The 1971-2020 average annual (A) sunshine duration and (B) day-time air temperature in Poland

of sunshine duration, occurs in north-eastern Poland, near Suwałki (Fig. 2B).

### The annual variability of sunshine duration and air temperature

In the course of a year, day-time air temperature changes occur with about a one-month delay compared to changes in sunshine duration. The maximum annual sunshine duration falls on the transition between June and July (Fig. 3A), while the maximum temperature falls on the transition between July and August (Fig. 3B). The curves plotted on the basis of daily area-average values from the years 1971-2020 are irregular owing to the interference caused by variations in the supply

of solar radiation and changes in air temperature. Irregularities can occur from day to day, which means that the effects of inter-day changes in sunshine duration and temperature have not been levelled even for the long-term curve. Some disturbances in the annual course are particularly large and occur over a few days in a row. In the case of sunshine duration, for example, these are days in April or June when there is a temporary decline in the value with a general trend of growth, followed by a rapid increase (Fig. 3A). It is similar with the course of temperature. A few days' periods of cooling with rising temperature in the spring or periods of warming with falling temperature in the autumn occur regularly, though not necessarily every year.

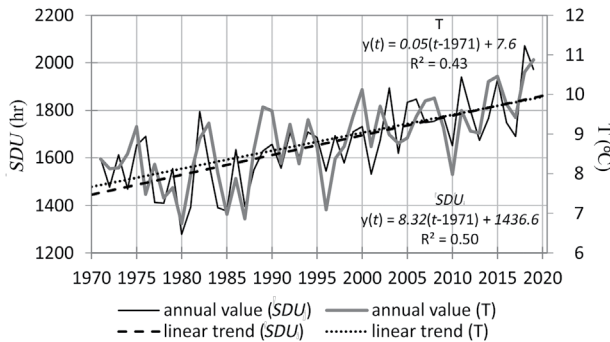


**Figure 3.** The annual variability of area-average daily values of (A) sunshine duration and (B) day-time air temperature in Poland. The thick black line refers to the average values from the period 1971-2020; the dashed line – 5th and 95th percentile values

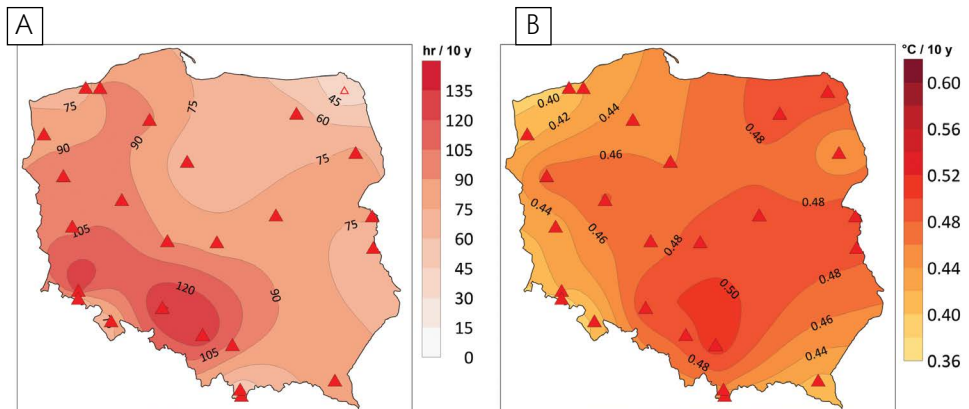
**The multi-annual course of area-averages**

The multi-annual course of sunshine duration and air temperature on the basis of data from 25 stations in Poland shows an increasing trend. In the first research period (1971-1980) in the last decade of what is known in the literature as the “global dimming” (inter alia Norris & Wild, 2007; Sanchez-Lorenzo et al., 2009), the values of both elements dropped to a minimum in 1980 (Fig. 4), and then gradually increased in line with the “global brightening” trend. There was a significant correspondence between the courses of sunshine duration and of temperature in shorter periods, and the lowest and highest

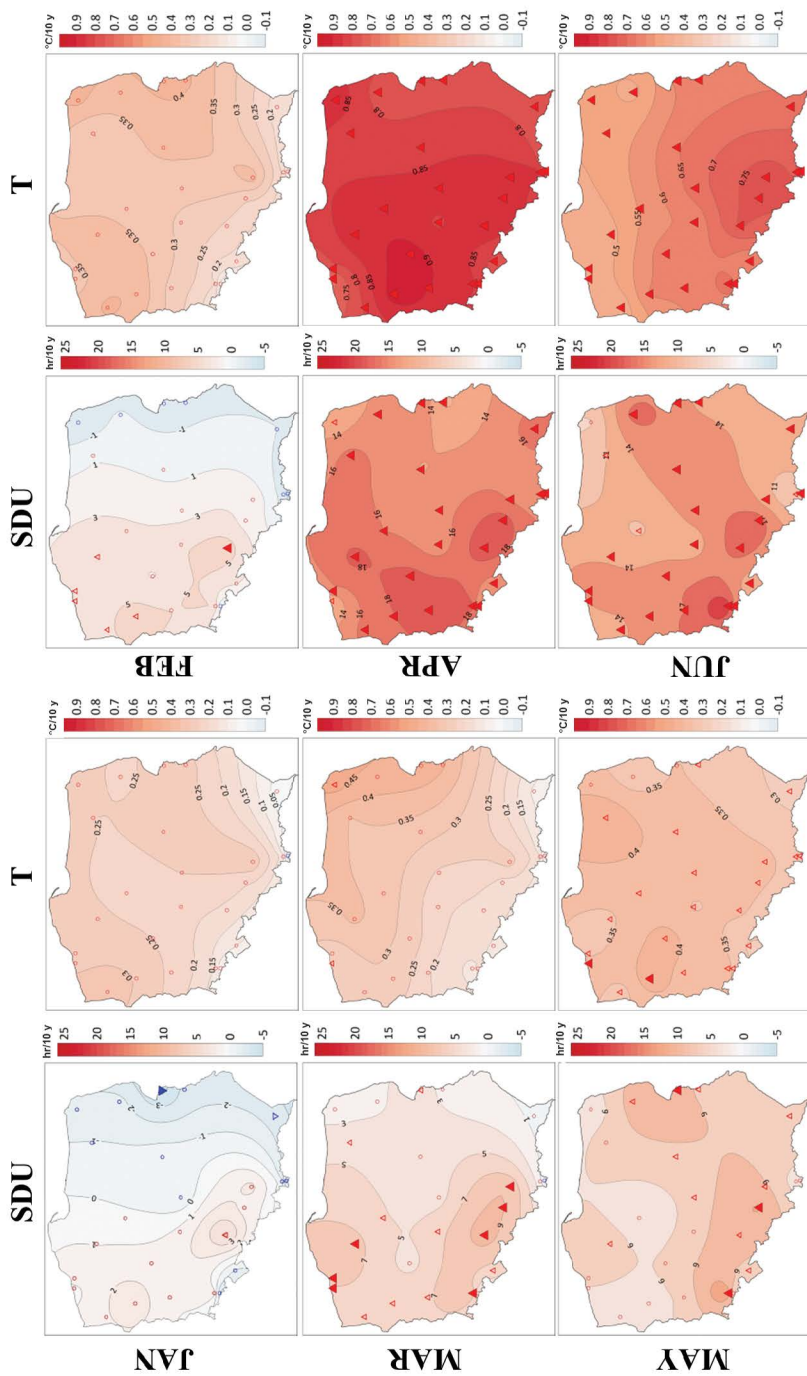
values of both elements were recorded in the same years. Until 1990, the totals of annual sunshine duration ranged from 1,278 hours (1980) to 1,795 hours (1982), and by the year 2000 they oscillated on average between 1,550 and 1,650 hours. In the following years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the annual values were often higher than 1,800 hours, and in 2018 they even exceeded 2,000 hours, reaching their maximum in the analysed multi-year period. Like sunshine duration, the mean area annual air temperature also dropped until 1980 (6.7°C). This was followed by the period of higher temperatures exceeding 9°C and dropping to 7°C in 1985, 1987, 1996. In 2000, the mean annual area air temperature for the first time exceeded 10°C and after



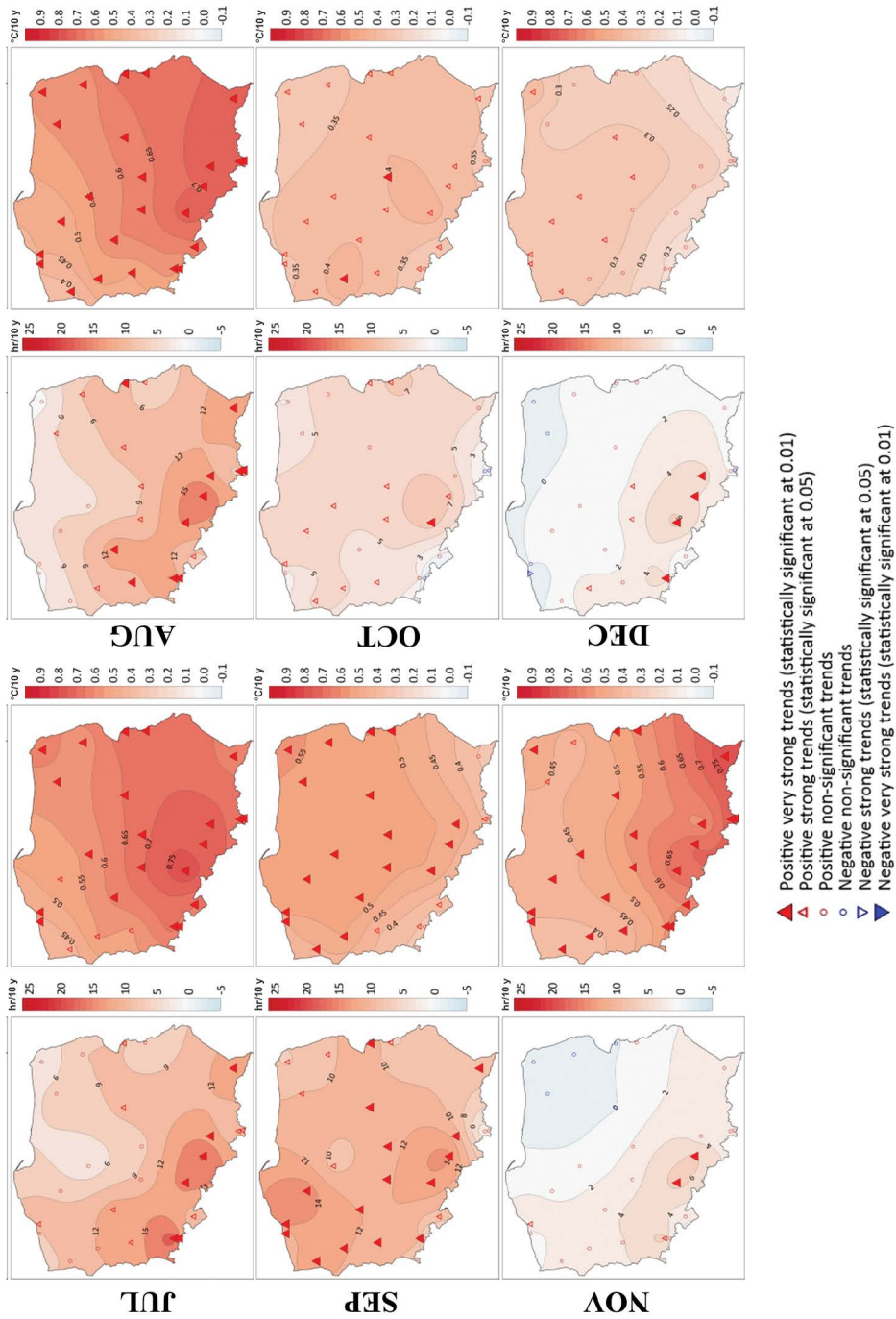
**Figure 4.** The multi-annual course of area-average annual sunshine duration (SDU) and day-time air temperature (T) in Poland



**Figure 5.** The magnitude (slope coefficient in hours and °C/10 years, respectively) and statistical significance of linear temporal trends in the annual (a) sunshine duration and (b) day-time air temperature at meteorological stations in Poland (1971-2020)







**Figure 6.** The magnitude (slope coefficient in hours and °C/10 years, respectively) and statistical significance of linear temporal trends in sunshine duration (SDU) and day-time air temperature (T) in selected months at meteorological stations in Poland (1971-2020)

a drop in 2010 (8°C) it did not fall below 9°C, and in 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020 it again exceeded 10°C, reaching a maximum of 10.9°C in the last year.

### **Spatial variability of trends in sunshine duration and air temperature**

Considering annual values, the trends in sunshine duration in Poland are more spatially varied than air temperature. The largest increase in sunshine duration (over 130 hr/10 years) occurred at the stations in Opole, Jelenia Góra, and Katowice (south-western Poland, except mountainous areas) and decreased to the east, with a minimum value at the north-eastern end of the country (Suwałki – 33 hr/10 years) (Fig. 5A). Air temperature increased most (0.5°C/10 years) in Małopolska and Silesia Uplands (Kraków, Opole). Increase in temperature was stronger in the central and eastern parts of the country (Suwałki, Terespol) than in the west (Kołobrzeg, Śnieżka, Kłodzko), and in the south-east of Poland (Fig. 5B).

In January and February, trends in sunshine duration decrease longitudinally and are positive (4.3 hr/10 years, Opole) in the western half of Poland, and negative in the eastern half (-4.4 hr/10 years, Terespol). Air temperature increases during these months, but the trends are not statistically significant and change latitudinally, from the highest values in the north to the lowest in the south (Fig. 6). In March, the largest trends in sunshine duration occur in the central Baltic coast (8.5 hr/10 years, Koszalin) and Silesian Upland (10.1 hr/10 years, Opole), while the smallest are in the Bieszczady Mountains and the belt in north-eastern and south-eastern Poland. Temperature trends in March increase from the south-west and south to the north-east, but are small and not statistically significant. The largest increases in the length of sunshine duration and the value of temperature in a 10-year period in the year occur in April. For both elements they are the largest in the west of Poland (19.4 hr/10 years, 0.9°C/10 years, Jelenia Góra and Opole)

and decrease towards the east. It is worth noting that a large increase in temperature also occurred in the mountains in April (Zakopane, Śnieżka, Kasprowy Wierch). In May, trend values do not vary much and are statistically significant only at very few stations. In the summer months, the highest increases in sunshine duration are observed in the south-west of Poland (Jelenia Góra, Katowice, Opole) and decrease towards the north-east in June and July, and towards the north in August (Fig. 6). In these months, the temperature also increased the most in the south-west (0.8°C/10 years Opole, Kraków), and the trends decreased towards the north-west. Interestingly, a large increase in temperature (from 0.7 to 0.8°C/10 years) occurred in the mountains, at the stations on Kasprowy Wierch, Zakopane, and Śnieżka. In September, trends in sunshine duration were the largest in Western Pomerania (Koszalin, Chojnice) and the Silesian Upland (Katowice, Opole), while the smallest occurred in the mountains and in the east of Poland. Temperature trends in September were the highest in the north-east (Mikołajki: 0.9°C/10 years) and gradually decreased towards the south and south-west. In October, November, and December, slight increases in sunshine duration occurred at only very few stations in south-western Poland, while positive temperature trends were clearly marked in November (Fig. 6). Also in November, the highest temperature increase was recorded in southern Poland (0.8°C/10 years, Kasprowy Wierch, Lesko), and the values gradually decreased towards the north. In December, positive trends in sunshine duration in south-western Poland are not reflected in temperature trends. They increase slightly in the northern half of Poland, but the trends are not statistically significant.

### **Correlation between sunshine duration and air temperature**

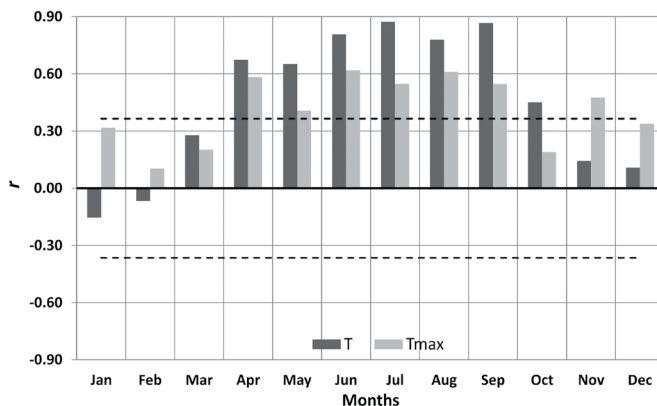
A correlation analysis of the area-average monthly sunshine duration and air temperature shows a strong relationship between

them in the period from April to October (Fig. 7). The highest correlation coefficients occur in July and September ( $r = 0.87$ ). The highest correlation coefficients between  $SDU$  and  $T_{max}$  occur in June and August ( $r > 0.60$ ), i.e. in months other than the ones with the highest correlation coefficients between  $SDU$  and the average air temperature (Fig. 7). A more pronounced relationship between sunshine duration and temperature in the warm half-year means that in this part of the year the radiation factor has a greater effect on air temperature than the circulation of the atmosphere.

The highest correlation coefficients between the average annual air temperature and sunshine duration ( $r > 0.80$ ) were found at stations in the southern part of the country, i.e. in Kraków, Katowice, and Opole, while the least ( $r < 0.60$ ) in Suwałki (north-eastern Poland). In winter, at the stations located in the northern and eastern half of the country, the correlation coefficients are negative, however, they are statistically significant only in Suwałki and Białystok ( $r = -0.46$  and  $-0.41$ , respectively). In the other seasons, the association is positive; for example, in April, the correlation between sunshine duration and air temperature is statistically significant at all meteorological stations, and the highest correlation coefficient values occur in southern

and western Poland ( $0.68 < r \leq 0.72$ ) while the lowest in the eastern part of the country ( $0.49 < r \leq 0.55$ ). The correlation coefficients in July are the highest in the year, i.e.,  $r > 0.80$  at many stations. In July, similarly to April, a slightly lower correlation occurs in eastern Poland ( $0.70 < r \leq 0.75$ ). In October, the correlation of temperature and sunshine duration is low, especially in northern Poland ( $r < 0.30$ ), and statistically significant only at the stations in the southern half of the country ( $r > 0.40$ ).

A strong statistically significant relationship between the average day-time air temperature and the sunshine duration facilitated development of linear regression models reflecting the course of air temperature in individual months in the years 1971-2020. The high degree of agreement of data calculated with the models with the values from meteorological stations from April-September is confirmed by the low values of the RMSE indicator (Tab. 2). The totals of sunshine duration account for from 41% (in May) to 76% (in July) of the air temperature variances in the warm half of the year. The average day-time air temperature values from the April-September period, both from meteorological stations and from the model, show a strong upward trend, with the highest values occurring in 2018 and 2019 (Fig. 8).

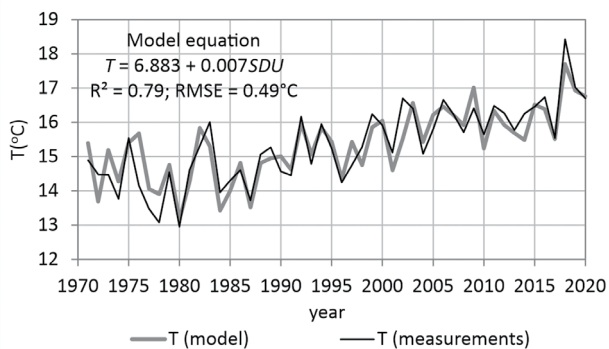


**Figure 7.** Correlation coefficients between the area-average monthly sunshine duration, day-time ( $T$ ) and daily maximum ( $T_{max}$ ) air temperature in Poland. Dashed lines indicate the level of statistical significance:  $p < 0.01$

**Table 2.** Estimation results of the linear regression model (1) of area-average monthly day-time air temperature in Poland in the years 1971-2020

Month	Model equation	$R^2$	F-value	p-value	RMSE [°C]	$T$ [°C]
Jan	$T_1 = 0.194 - 0.034SDU_1$	0.003	1.14	0.291	2.8	-1.5
Feb	$T_2 = -0.127 - 0.009SDU_2$	0.001	0.21	0.652	2.9	-0.8
Mar	$T_3 = 0.223 + 0.024SDU_3$	0.062	3.95	0.053	2.2	3.1
Apr	$T_4 = 3.515 + 0.031SDU_4$	0.443	39.26	0.000	1.3	8.6
May	$T_5 = 8.506 + 0.025SDU_5$	0.412	34.64	0.000	1.2	14.1
Jun	$T_6 = 10.735 + 0.029SDU_6$	0.645	88.24	0.000	0.9	17.1
Jul	$T_7 = 11.544 + 0.033SDU_7$	0.757	150.58	0.000	0.9	19.1
Aug	$T_8 = 11.517 + 0.033SDU_8$	0.599	72.65	0.000	1.0	18.8
Sep	$T_9 = 8.147 + 0.041SDU_9$	0.746	142.16	0.000	0.9	14.1
Oct	$T_{10} = 5.977 + 0.027SDU_{10}$	0.187	12.02	0.001	1.4	8.9
Nov	$T_{11} = 3.051 + 0.017SDU_{11}$	0.013	0.99	0.324	1.9	4.0
Dec	$T_{12} = -0.559 + 0.018SDU_{12}$	0.005	0.56	0.458	2.2	0.1
Year	$T = 1.150 + 0.005SDU$	0.612	76.59	0.000	0.6	8.8

Note:  $SDU$ , 1971-2020 mean of area-average monthly sunshine duration;  $R^2$ , coefficient of determination; RMSE - root mean square error;  $T$ , 1971-2020 mean of area-average monthly day-time air temperature



**Figure 8.** The multi-annual variability of area-average day-time air temperature from the period April-September in Poland in the years 1971-2020 calculated on the basis of measurements at meteorological stations (black line) and the linear regression model (1) (grey line)

## Discussion of the results

In Poland, as well as elsewhere in Europe, increasing trends in sunshine duration (e.g. Norris & Wild, 2007; Sanchez-Lorenzo, 2015; Bartoszek et al., 2021; Marsz et al., 2022) and in air temperature (e.g. Hoy et al., 2016; Sippel et al., 2016; Ustrnul et al., 2021; Kejna & Rudzki, 2021) have been observed in the

last 40 years. The research results presented in this study on the basis of data from 1971-2020 in Poland show that the growing trends in these two elements have not been consistent throughout the entire studied period: it is not evident in all months of the year, and is spatially varied. However, it is worth noting that the size and direction of trends are similar both in mountainous regions and in other regions of the country.

The temporal and spatial variability of the climate elements analysed here is determined by Poland's location in the zone of moderate latitudes. The annual course of sunshine duration and temperature depends on radiation and circulation factors. According to Wibig (2021), the frequency of hot days showed significant growth acceleration after 1980. The circulation patterns favouring the appearance of heat waves differ, but in most cases, anticyclone occurs at the same time over Poland or in its vicinity.

The records of sunshine duration and temperature showed that the change of the value of both elements fall on the same years or those that are close to each other. The first decades may include the "global dimming" period (e.g., Norris & Wild, 2007; Sanchez-Lorenzo, 2015). The second period, in which there is a rapid increase in sunshine duration ("global brightening") begins in Poland in 1989. This is also a breakthrough year in the temperature trend changes, confirmed also by the studies by Marsz and Styszyńska (2019). As results of studies conducted in various regions indicate, the reduction in aerosol optical thickness (AOT) had the greatest impact on the increase in sunshine duration (e.g. Nymasi et al., 2020; Bartoszek et al., 2021) and on the decrease in the incidence of low-level clouds, mainly stratiform clouds (e.g., Sherwood et al., 2014; Matuszko et al., 2022). Trends in the supply of solar radiation based on ground and satellite data on the Iberian Peninsula in the years 1985-2015 are similar to the trends in sunshine duration in Poland and are also explained by the changes in cloudiness and a decrease in AOT (Montero-Martin et al. 2020).

The highest increase in sunshine duration and air temperature occurred in Poland in the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and applies to the months of the warm half of the year, especially April, which may result from the fact that at the beginning of the surveyed multi-year period (the 1970s) the spring months in Poland were anomalously cold. Similarly, in Spain, the largest increase in solar radiation occurred in the spring, which

is mainly explained by the decrease in cloudiness at this time of the year (Sanchez-Lorenzo et al. 2009). Using data from the years 1951-2018 from the 210 meteorological stations in Europe and Asia Minor, and on the northern coast of Africa, Kossowska-Cezak and Twardosz (2019) showed that the 1970s were the coldest period in the multi-year course, that is, they had the highest incidence of extremely cold months and seasons and the lowest incidence of unusually warm months and seasons.

In Poland, there is a large spatial variability in the directional coefficients of trends in the annual and monthly totals of sunshine duration, as well as in average annual and monthly air temperature. The highest increase in sunshine duration occurred in south-western Poland, except for mountainous areas, and the smallest at its north-eastern end. South-western Poland is a highly industrialized area that was most polluted during the "global dimming" period. Improving air quality and reducing the AOT value had an impact on the largest increase in sunshine duration in this area (Matuszko et al., 2020).

In Poland, there is a strong relationship between day-time air temperature and sunshine duration expressed by high positive values of correlation coefficients, but only during the warm half of the year. In winter, a positive correlation ( $r$  between 0.25 and 0.35) is observed in southern Poland, which may be influenced by the occurrence of foehn phenomena on the leeward side of the mountains (Elvidge & Renfrew, 2016). An inverse relationship between temperature and sunshine duration is observed in eastern Poland, which is due to the impact of high pressure systems from Eastern Europe in this part of the country, which in the winter, usually during cloudless weather, contribute to the occurrence of cold waves (Tomczyk et al., 2019).

## Conclusions

Climate warming, especially evident in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, is a fact. This research, carried out in Poland, allows us to conclude that different

factors influence the increase in temperature in the warm and cool halves of the year. We have shown that air temperature from April to September is highly correlated with sunshine duration. The reason for the increase in sunshine duration is an issue requiring further research. The possible causes could be simply a decrease in the content of aerosols in the atmosphere; alternatively, a change in the amount and structure of cloudiness caused by a change in atmospheric circulation, or changes in the content of water vapour in the atmospheric column.

A separate issue is the increase in air temperature in the cool half of the year. Our research results indicate that changes in air temperature during this period are not related to sunshine duration trends. Therefore, it should be assumed that non-radiation factors, both anthropogenic and natural (circulation in the ocean-atmosphere system),

play a key role in the long-term variability of thermal conditions at this time of year.

The presented paper is the basis for further research on the impact of increased sunshine duration and temperature on the economy of Poland e.g., on the development of solar energy or viticulture.

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Editors' note:

Unless otherwise stated, the sources of tables and figures are the authors', on the basis of their own research.

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