

# **Report on climate change projections and changes in climate extremes for SKOPJE REGION**

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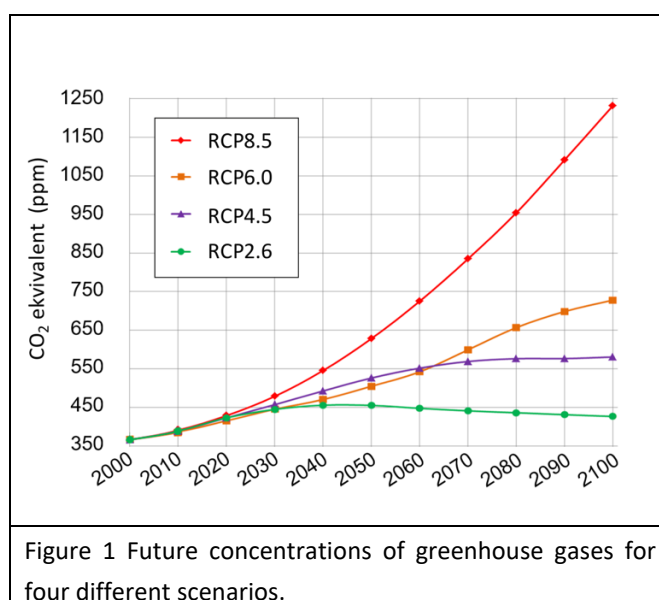
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## INTRODUCTION

This report will present the results for the future climate change projections for Skopje region, under RCP2.6, RCP4.5 and RCP8.6 scenarios of the future concentrations of greenhouse gases defined in the Fifth Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The analysis will include changes in essential climate variables: mean daily temperature and daily precipitation. In addition to these results, changes in selected climate indices are presented, as indicators of the possible changes in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather and climate events. All future changes will be presented for the period from 1986 to 2100 and with respect to the reference period 1986-2005, which was used as the reference and in the last Fifth Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

## GHG EMISSIONS SCENARIOS

The Fifth Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change identifies four so-called Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) scenarios for future global concentrations of greenhouse gas: RCP8.5, RCP6.0, RCP4.5 and RCP2.6. These scenarios represent possible changes in the concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere in the period 2006-2100. Scenarios RCP2.6 and RCP4.5 assume that, greenhouse gases concentrations will stabilize in the future, while under RCP8.5 and RCP6.0 scenarios, their concentrations will continue to increase, or follow trends observed in the past (Figure 1). Scenario RCP2.6 even assumes that, in the second half of this century, the concentration of greenhouse gases could even decline, requiring anthropogenic emissions to be zero at one point.



## CLIMATE MODELS AND FUTURE PROJECTIONS

For different scenarios of future concentrations of greenhouse gases, with climate models that use these concentrations as input variables, appropriate climate projections can be

obtained. For this report regional climate models were used. Regional climate models have significantly better horizontal resolution in comparison to Global Climate Models, usually of the order of 10 km. Based on their results it is possible to estimate the regional spatial changes of the selected variables.

The results of regional climate models are taken from the EURO-CORDEX database, which is the reference database of climate projections for Europe, and which has been the basis of many climate studies in Europe in recent years. Also, this database forms the basis for the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service program. The horizontal resolution of the downloaded data is 11 km. Also, the so-called bias-corrected data were taken. Bias-adjusted data are climate projections from which the systematic model errors in the model results are removed. The data from which systematic model error has been removed allow the estimation in future projections of selected climate indices to be more reliable. Seven regional climate models for RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 scenarios were taken from this database: CCLM4-8-17\_v1 (r1i1p1 run identifier and CNRM-CM5 global model for boundary conditions), CCLM4-8-17\_v1 (r12i1p1 run identifier and EC-EARTH global model for boundary conditions), RACMO22E\_v1 (r1i1p1 run identifier and EC-EARTH global model for boundary conditions), RCA4\_v1 (r1i1p1 run identifier and IPSL-CM5A global model for boundary conditions), CCLM4-8-17\_v1 (r1i1p1 run identifier and MPI-ESM global model for boundary conditions), REMO2009\_v1 (r1i1p1 run identifier and MPI-ESM global model for boundary conditions) and REMO2009\_v1 (r2i1p1 run identifier and MPI-ESM global model for boundary conditions). For RCP2.6 there were less available models and analysis was done with three different regional climate models: RCA4\_v1 (r12i1p1 run identifier and EC-EARTH global model for boundary conditions), REMO2009\_v1 (r1i1p1 run identifier and MPI-ESM global model for boundary conditions) and REMO2009\_v1 (r2i1p1 run identifier and MPI-ESM global model for boundary conditions). Since that number of models for RCP8.5 and RCP4.5 are different in comparison to the number of models for RCP2.6 comparison between results from them should be taken with care.

The analyzed indices are given in Table 1.

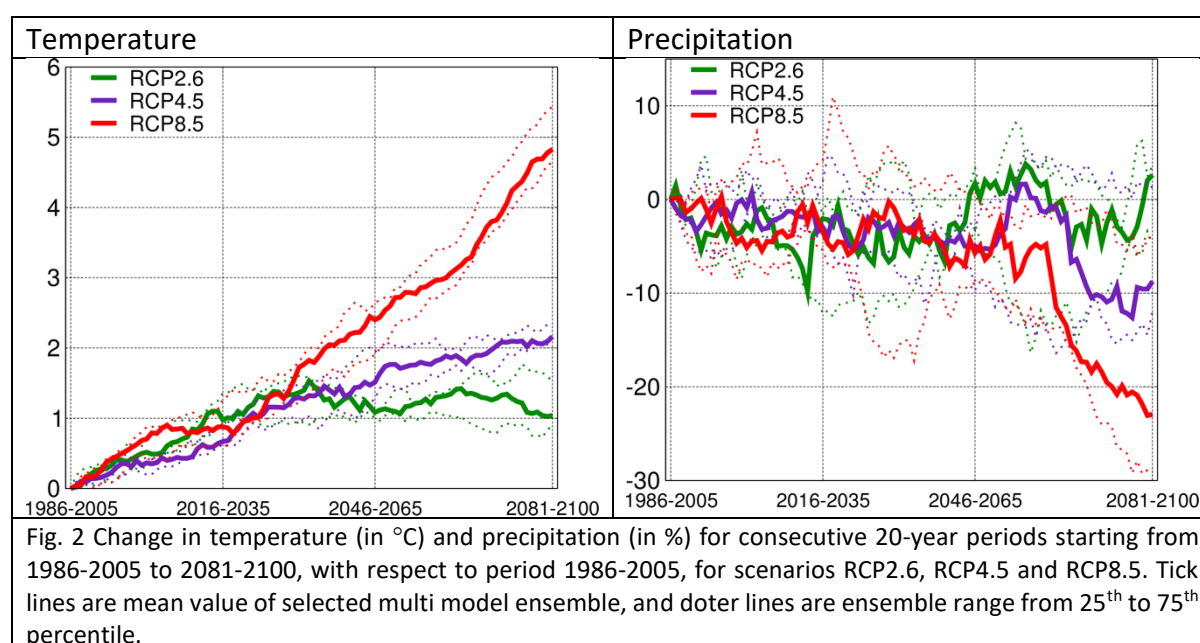
Table 1. Indices definition.

Index	Definition
FD	Number of frost days: Annual count of days when TN (daily minimum temperature) < 0°C.
ID	Number of icing days: Annual count of days when TX (daily maximum temperature) < 0°C.
CSDI	Cold-spell duration index: Annual count of days with at least 6 consecutive days when TG < 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile (cold waves).
SU	Number of summer days: Annual count of days when TX (daily maximum temperature) > 25°C.
TR	Number of tropical nights: Annual count of days when TN (daily minimum temperature) > 20°C.
WSDI	Warm spell duration index: Annual count of days with at least 6 consecutive days when TX > 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile (extreme heat waves).
RR40	Annual count of days when daily precipitation ≥ 40mm.
RX1D	Yearly maximum 1-day precipitation.
CDD	Maximum length of dry spell, maximum number of consecutive days with daily precipitation < 1mm.
GSL	Growing season length: Annual (1 <sup>st</sup> Jan to 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec in Northern Hemisphere (NH), 1 <sup>st</sup> July to 30 <sup>th</sup> June in Southern Hemisphere (SH)) count between first span of at least 6 days with daily mean temperature TG > 5°C and first span after July 1 <sup>st</sup> (Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> in SH) of 6 days with TG < 5°C. (TG – mean daily temperature)

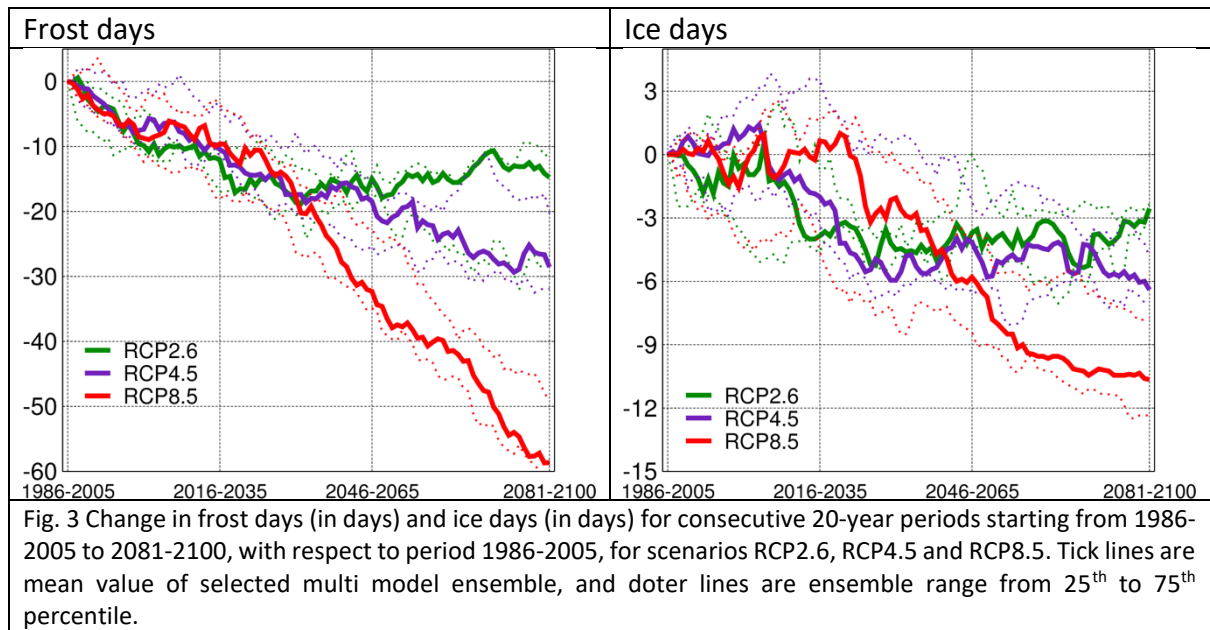
## RESULTS

Mean annual temperature and precipitation temporal change for Skopje region are given in Figure 2 for scenarios RCP2.6 (*low*), RCP4.5 (*mid*) and RCP8.5 (*high*). For all scenarios increase in future temperature is expected. In the first half of the century there is no significant difference for different scenarios and expected temperature increase is between 1 and 1,5 °C, on the other hand for the end of the century increase in temperature is 1 °C, 2 °C and 5 °C, for *low*, *mid* and *high* scenarios, respectively, clearly indicating that future evolution in temperature is determined by future concentration of GHGs.

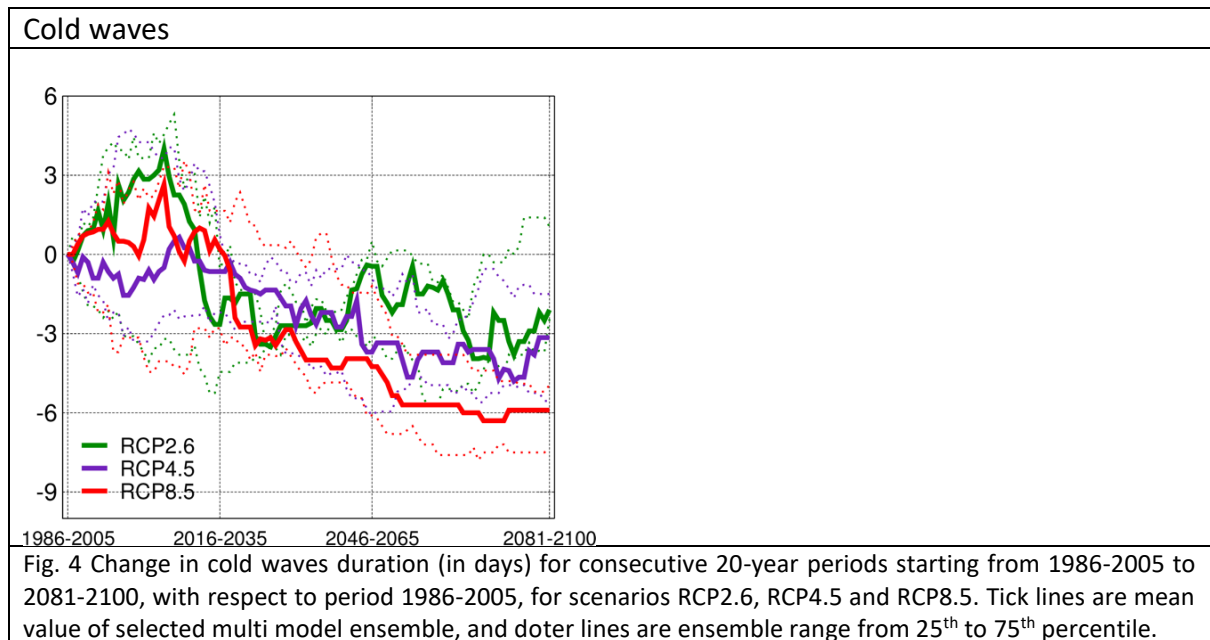
For **precipitation** change, again in the first half of the century, results are similar for all scenarios giving annual precipitation change between 0 and -5 %. Full ensemble range is from +5% to -10% indicating higher chances for drier condition. For the second half precipitation change is clearly negative for *high* scenario up to -20%, and *mid* scenario -10%, but for *low* scenario precipitation change about zero.



In Figure 3 change in **frost and ice days** for Skopje region are given for scenarios RCP2.6 (*low*), RCP4.5 (*mid*) and RCP8.5 (*high*). For all scenarios decrease in future frost and ice days is expected, which is not surprising since that increase in mean annual temperature is expected. In the first half of the century there is no significant difference for different scenarios and expected decrease in frost days is about -20 days, on the other hand for the end of the century decrease in frost days for *high* scenario is about -60 days. Expected decrease in ice days is about -3 days for all scenarios for the middle of century, and for the end of the century change is about -10 days for *high* scenario, -6 days for *mid* scenario and -3 and days for *low* scenario.

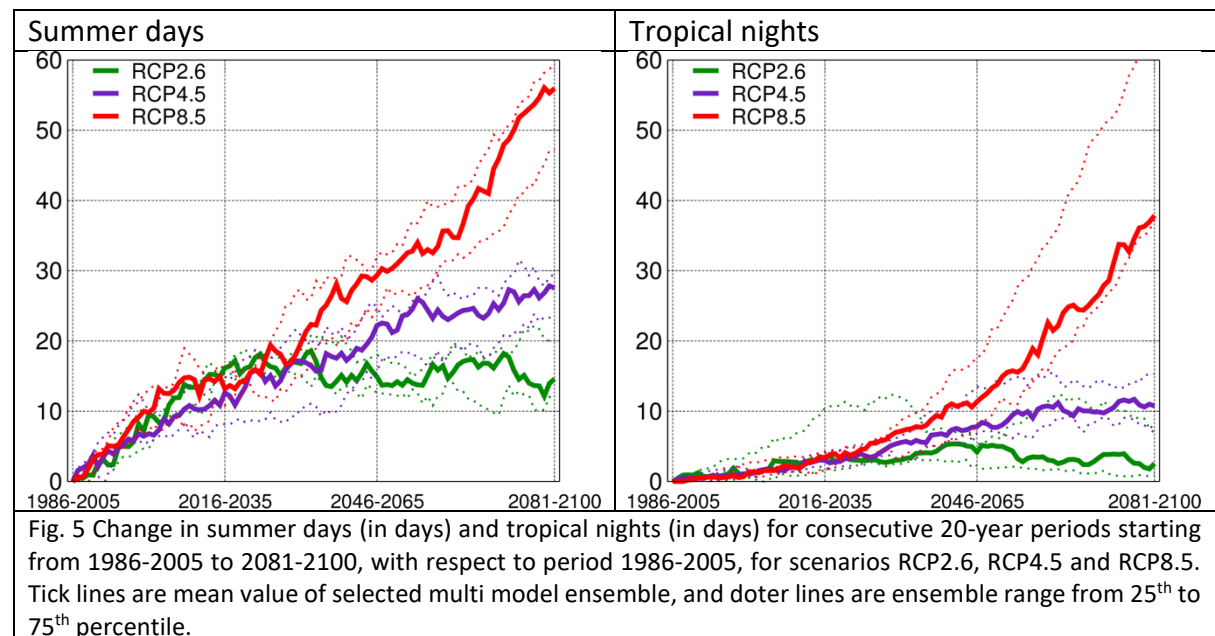


In Figure 4 change in **cold waves** for Skopje region are given for scenarios RCP2.6 (*low*), RCP4.5 (*mid*) and RCP8.5 (*high*). For all scenarios decrease in future cold waves duration is expected. In the first half of the century there is no significant difference for different scenarios and expected decrease cold wave duration is about -3 days on average. For the end of the century decrease in cold wave duration is 3, 3 and 6 days for *high*, *mid* and *high* scenarios respectively.

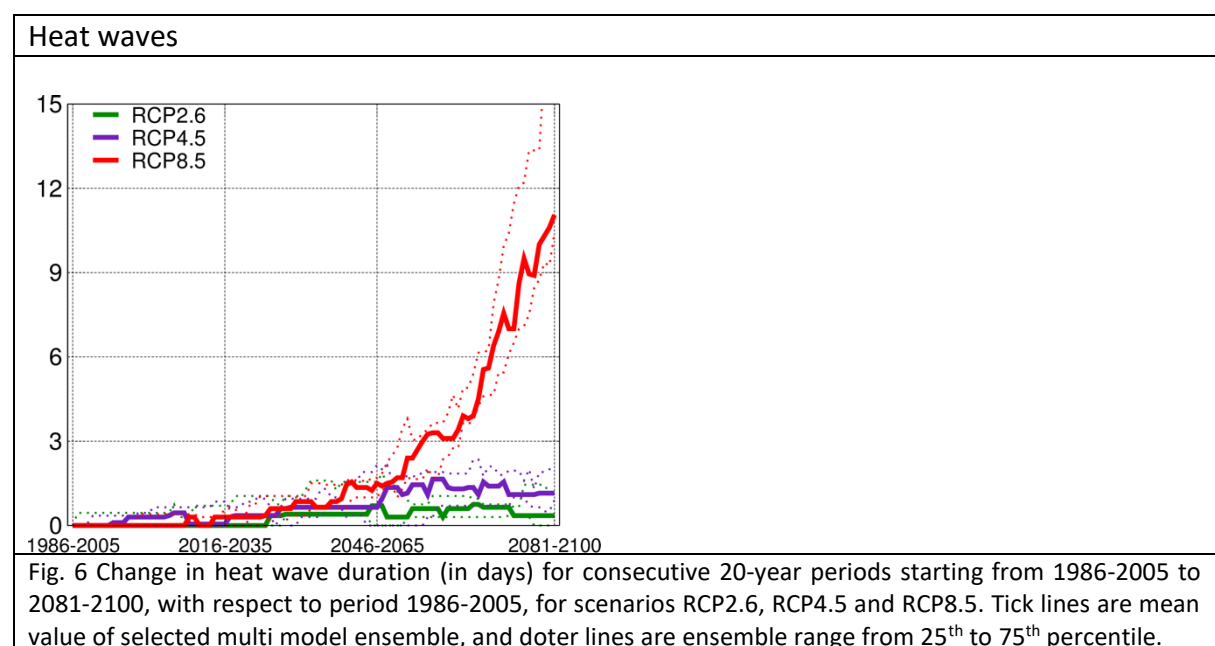


In Figure 5 change in **summer and tropical nights** for Skopje region are given for scenarios RCP2.6 (*low*), RCP4.5 (*mid*) and RCP8.5 (*high*). For all scenarios increase in future summer days and tropical nights is expected. In the first half of the century there is no significant difference for different scenarios and expected increase in summer days is from 20 to 30 days, on the other hand for the end of the century increase in summer days for *high* scenario is

about 55 days. For *low* scenario increase is expected to stay the same, and for *mid* scenario for the end of the century increase is 30 days. Expected increase in tropical nights is 5 to 10 days for all scenarios for the middle of century, and for the end of the century change is 40 days for *high* scenario 2 days for *low* and 10 days for *mid* scenarios.

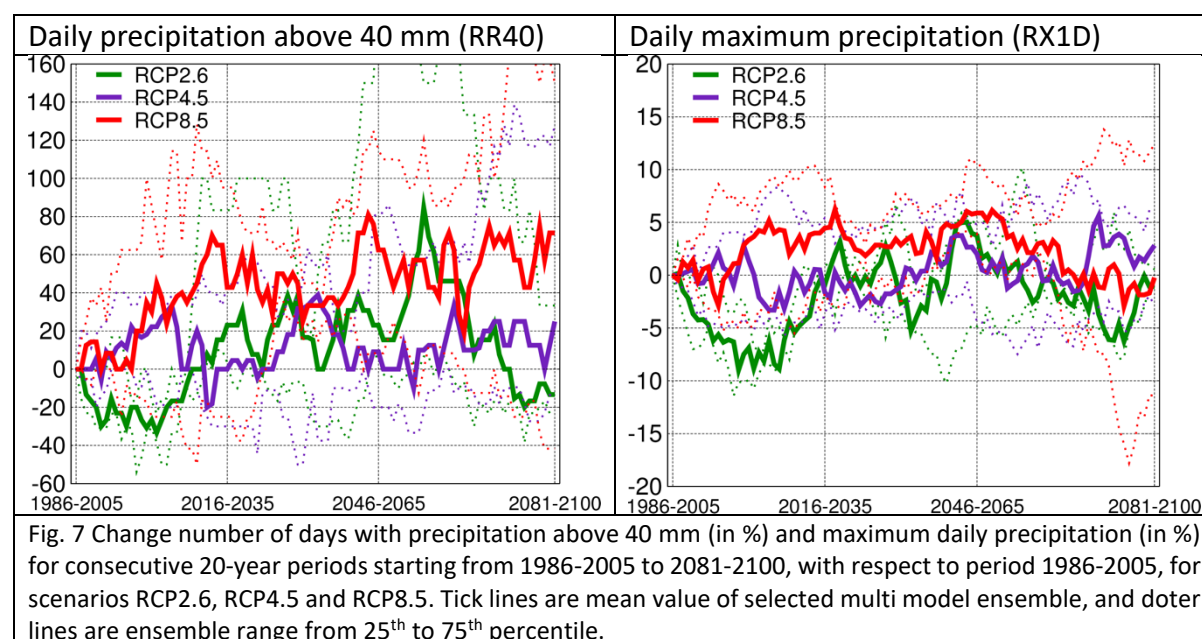


In Figure 6 change in **heat wave duration** for Skopje region are given for scenarios RCP2.6 (*low*), RCP4.5 (*mid*) and RCP8.5 (*high*). The change is very similar up to period 2046-2065, with increased duration of heat waves od about 1 day. After this period there is significant increase in heat waves duration for *high* scenario, and for the end of the century increase in duration is between 9 and 12 days, for *mid* scenario the increase is about 1 days and for the *low* scenario no change is present.





In Figure 7, change in **number of days with precipitation above 40 mm (RR40)** and change in **daily maximum precipitation (RX1D)** for Skopje region are given for scenarios RCP2.6 (*low*), RCP4.5 (*mid*) and RCP8.5 (*high*). It is clear that internal variability dominates in comparison to potential signal of future change. For number of days with precipitation above 40 mm, overall positive change is present for all scenarios, for majority of future periods. For *high* scenario, upper limit of ensemble spread above 100%, which means that doubling of these days is potentially possible in the future. Similar conclusion can be applied for maximum daily accumulation, for *mid* and *high* scenario ensemble spread is predominantly positive, and for the *low* scenario, spread is evenly distributed on positive and negative change. Maximum of change in terms of upper limit of ensemble spread is between +5% and +10%, for the end of the century, for *mid* and *high* scenario.



In Figure 8 change in **consecutive dray days** for Skopje region are given for scenarios RCP2.6 (*low*), RCP4.5 (*mid*) and RCP8.5 (*high*). For *low* and *mid* scenario, the increase is between 0 and 3 days, for the first half of the century. For the end of the century for mid scenario change is 6 days, and for low scenario decrease is -3 days. For *mid* scenario upper limit of the spread is more pronounced for the end of the century with values above 9 days. For the *high* scenario significant increase is present for the end of the century with change between 9 and 12 days, indicating higher risk for drought in case of this scenario.

### Consecutive dry days

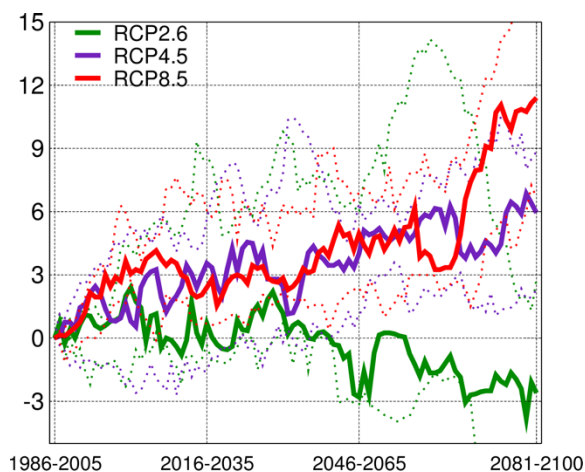


Fig. 8 Change in consecutive dry days (in days) for consecutive 20-year periods starting from 1986-2005 to 2081-2100, with respect to period 1986-2005, for scenarios RCP2.6, RCP4.5 and RCP8.5. Tick lines are mean value of selected multi model ensemble, and doter lines are ensemble range from 25<sup>th</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup> percentile.

In Figure 9 change in **growing season length** for Skopje region are given for scenarios RCP2.6 (*low*), RCP4.5 (*mid*) and RCP8.5 (*high*). For all scenarios increase ins growing season length is expected. In the middle of the century the expected increase is 20 days, and for the end of the century, for low and mid scenarios, will stay on this level, but for high scenario increase is between 50 and 60 days.

### Growing season length

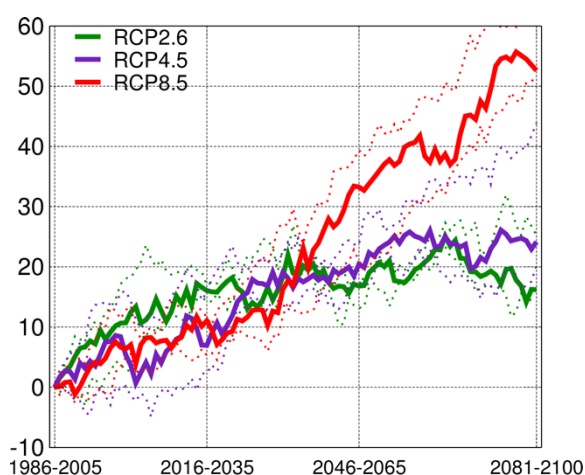


Fig. 9 Change in growing season length (in days) for consecutive 20-year periods starting from 1986-2005 to 2081-2100, with respect to period 1986-2005, for scenarios RCP2.6, RCP4.5 and RCP8.5. Tick lines are mean value of selected multi model ensemble, and doter lines are ensemble range from 25<sup>th</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup> percentile.