



## **Meteorological parameters important for highland tourism in Croatia in two referent climatological periods**

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The climate is one of the most important resources for tourism. Therefore information and knowledge of climate as well as climate change should be incorporated into the strategic plans of particular areas. Adriatic coast and islands are the best known tourist destinations in Croatia. At the same time, lots of other resources suitable for tourism development in Croatia are still not recognized nor valued according to their potential. Croatia's highland area within the Dinaric Alps, or the isolated mountains of the northern lowland are highly agreeable to tourists throughout the year, particularly in summer and, traditionally, in winter. The summer is suitable for recreation and sport such as walking, hiking. The winter tourism should be oriented mainly towards snow-related activities such as cross-country skiing or snow mobiling rather than solely on alpine skiing.

The biometeorological and snow conditions at several highland tourism resorts in Croatia are presented and compared for two climatological periods 1961-1990 and 1971-2000. The biometeorological conditions are analyzed by means of frequency of thermal sensation based on physiologically equivalent temperature in ten-day periods during the year. The climatological base for snow conditions includes analyses of the annual course and probability of snow parameters at different altitudes and expositions. The snow parameters selected for this analysis are: the beginning and the end of the snow season, the number of days with a snow cover  $\geq 1$  cm,  $\geq 10$  cm,  $\geq 30$  cm, and  $\geq 50$  cm, the number of days with snowfall (precipitation  $\geq 0.1$  mm), the daily snow depth and the maximum snow depth.