

SUMMARY

The problem addressed in the paper is the process of convergence of the Polish economy in relation to the level of development of the European Union countries, also in relation to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The narrowing of the development gap depends on the strength of the impact of economic growth factors - labour input and labour productivity. In turn, capital input and total factor productivity contribute to labour productivity growth. The potential to achieve and sustain high economic growth rates depends crucially on the economic policies of the country, which influence the shaping of more or less favourable conditions for the inflow and use of foreign capital and technology to activate economic activity, create new demand and structural change.

Therefore, the main hypothesis of the study is that an important factor in the process of economic convergence of the Polish economy in 2008-2018 was the international diffusion of innovations. It is assumed that a greater share of external channels, related to the diffusion of innovations from other economies in the form of investments, the implementation of innovations and research and development activities, contributed to increasing the efficiency of the functioning of the Polish economy in the studied period. The aim of the study is to verify the hypothesis that international diffusion of innovation influenced the speed of the convergence process of the Polish economy in 2008-2018. In turn, the specific objectives concern:

- theoretical analysis of economic development, with particular emphasis on the convergence process and the importance of innovation;
- systematisation of concepts concerning the international diffusion of innovation and its role in the convergence process;
- an examination of the importance of the particular determinants of the international diffusion of innovation in the Polish economy;
- to analyse the level of Poland's economic development in 2008-2018 in relation to the economies of developed countries;
- to determine the international diffusion of innovation in the Polish economy based on available statistical data;
- an empirical analysis of the impact of individual channels of international diffusion of innovation on the process of convergence of the Polish economy in the studied period.

The layout of the dissertation corresponds to the research method adopted and therefore consists of six chapters. The dissertation is theoretical and empirical in nature: the objectives set in the thesis have been developed on the basis of domestic and foreign literature, in the field of innovation and convergence, as well as institutional or international economics.

The first chapter deals with theoretical issues related to the problem of innovation, the innovation process and the diffusion of innovation itself. The second chapter deals with the theoretical foundations of the research problem, i.e. the concept of convergence of economies, as well as data on the development of the Polish economy in the analysed period. The third chapter contains considerations related to the first specific hypothesis, i.e. the level of innovativeness of entities and their ability to absorb innovation, complemented by an analysis of the innovativeness of enterprises in Poland. The fourth chapter focuses on the second specific hypothesis, which concerns the institutional determinants of international diffusion of innovation, broken down into formal institutions, informal institutions and property rights. In turn, the fifth chapter refers to the third specific hypothesis, i.e. international conditions, which includes the role of foreign direct investment, international trade and selected international institutions. The sixth chapter contains an analysis of empirical data on the convergence of the Polish economy with the EU countries in 2008-2018, taking into account indicators such as GDP per capita, labour productivity or TFP. The period adopted in the study concerns the years 2008-2018 and will allow for an in-depth analysis of the effectiveness of the Polish economy in the context of international diffusion of innovation. This will be done by analysing available statistical data: on the one hand, on the economic development of the Polish economy and the process of catching up with developed economies, and on the other, on individual channels for the diffusion of innovation from external sources.

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