SUMMARY

This paper attempts to diagnose the determinants of innovative activity of extracurricular educational entities located in rural areas in Poland. This objective was achieved by identifying characteristics of the determinants of innovativeness and determining the correlations between the development of extracurricular educational entities, the level of innovativeness of Polish voivodships and the level of multifunctionality of rural areas. An attempt was also made to describe the phenomenon of innovation accumulation and identify the factors that influence this process.

The conducted research procedure consisted of three stages. Stage I consisted of a literature analysis to prepare the theoretical background for the empirical research and define the problem in terms of economic theory. At this stage of research, the main objective, specific objectives and research hypotheses were formulated. The methods and research tools were also selected. In Stage II, a survey questionnaire was developed, and the survey research was then conducted and analysed. Stage III involved research using statistical and econometric methods, as well as the development of research results, along with their interpretation and evaluation.

The dissertation consists of six chapters preceded by an introduction and summed up with a conclusion. The first four chapters of the work are theoretical. The fifth chapter is theoretical-empirical, and the sixth chapter is empirical-analytical.

According to the study, in 2016-2018, the greatest importance among the determinants of development and diffusion of innovation in extracurricular forms of education were factors of an economic and social nature. Among them, economic activity undertaken by extracurricular education entities was manifested, among others, in the number of educational facilities, and the involvement of rural residents played a particularly important role. Important factors also included spatial management of rural areas, the state of infrastructure, as well as the level of development of organisational structures of eco-museums, thematic villages and educational homesteads. Among the important groups of determinants of innovation development, demographic factors should also be considered, which are associated with population migration from rural to urban areas and vice-versa. The research also confirmed that entities focused on out-of-school education were active in all types of innovations. Medium innovative entities (which a quantitative summary denoted about 62% of all extracurricular education entities) obtained information on innovations mainly from

cooperation with external entities. Moreover, they could not conceive of improving innovations without external information or cooperation with external entities.

The above conclusions are the result of the survey research, literature analysis and the author's personal experience (as the owner of one of the extracurricular educational institutions) supplemented with the help of econometric research.

In addition to contributing to the expanding knowledge of extracurricular educational entities, the study fulfils the important task of improving the effectiveness of cooperation in the implementation of innovation by Polish educational entities. The study may also provide a basis for recommendations on coordinating networks of out-ofschool education providers and local governments.