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The choice of the research problem was driven by the intention to connect two interrelated issues: the concept of a closed-loop economy (Circular Economy - CE) and the process of eco-design of packaging. Despite a multifaceted approach to the concepts of CE and packaging design in Polish and foreign scientific publications, these issues appear to have been presented only selectively, resulting in an emergence of a significant research gap, which this doctoral dissertation aims to address. The literature review revealed a need for independent study to indicate the role of eco-design of packaging in the concept of CE, as well as the benefits arising from its implementation in a market economy.

The doctoral thesis is theoretical-empirical in its nature and consists of six chapters, the first two being theoretical and the next four constituting the research section. The conducted empirical research, aimed at determining the role of the eco-design of packaging in the concept of a closed-loop economy, was carried out in six stages, as outlined below:

1. Assessment of consumer knowledge regarding the management of packaging waste (survey),
2. Assessment of consumer expectations regarding the management of packaging waste and measures aimed at improving it (survey),
3. Assessment of the knowledge of economic entities introducing packaged products regarding the principles of a closed-loop economy and the eco-design process of packaging (survey),
4. Identification of existing market barriers in the eco-design process of packaging (expert interview),
5. Identification and analysis of the benefits arising from the eco-design process of packaging (expert interview),
6. Assessment of the viability of subjecting selected types of packaging to the process of eco-design (experimental laboratory study).

As a result of the conducted research, answers to the research questions were obtained, allowing the attainment of the main research goal of the doctoral thesis and the intended specific objectives. The empirical studies also enabled the verification of all the substantive hypotheses posed in the doctoral thesis, including the main research hypothesis.

The empirical research filled the identified research gap and provided knowledge enabling the determination of improvement directions and recommendations for the eco-design process of packaging, taking into account the assumptions of a closed-loop economy. The obtained results can be used by administrative authorities (e.g., during legislative processes), entrepreneurs (e.g., when implementing new business models), and non-governmental organizations (e.g., during educational activities). This knowledge is particularly relevant in the years 2023-2025 when key EU requirements regarding the management of packaging and packaging waste are expected to be transposed into the Polish legal system.