



Klaipėdos
universitetas

UNIVERSITY TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Prof. dr. Rasa Braslauskienė,
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Reda Jacynė

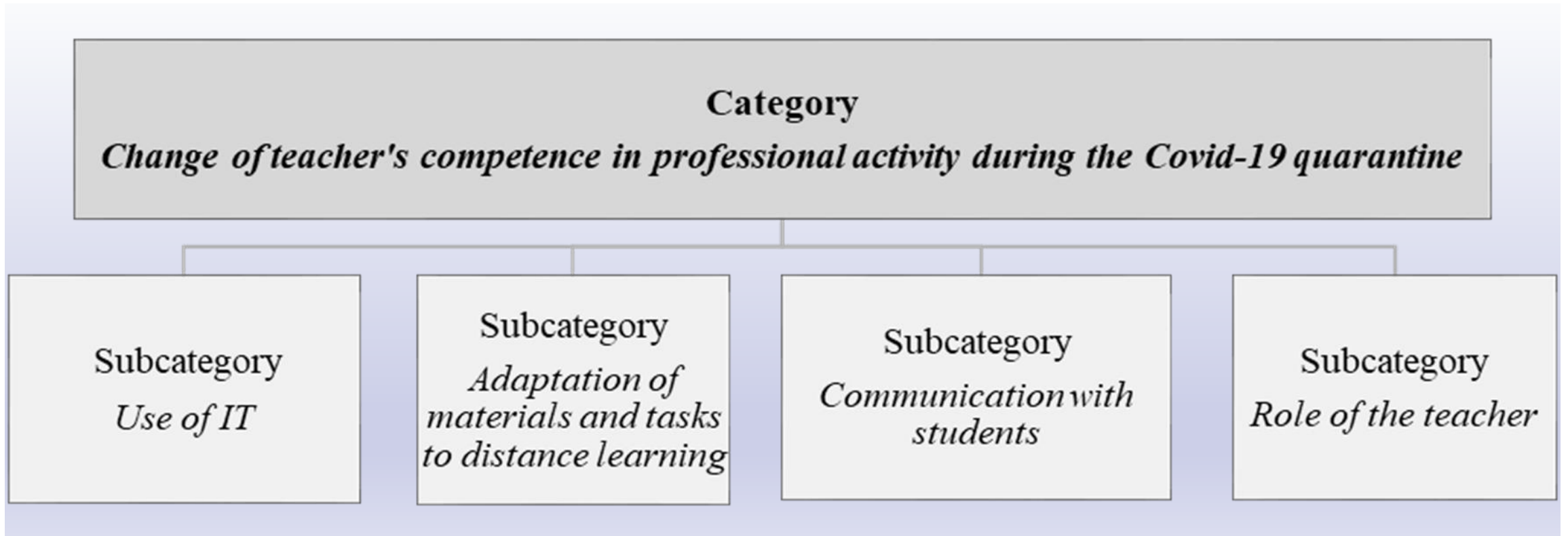
04/June/2021

- ❖ Therefore, both university members and students came across many challenges. Universities also struggle with keeping the content of the course consistent and relevant, with communicating clearly with the academic community, with supporting and assisting university teachers, with focusing on e-learning, because the main challenges that teachers and students encountered were accessibility, connectivity, lack of appropriate devices, social issues represented by the lack of communication and interaction with teachers and colleagues (Coman, Tiru, et al., 2020).
- ❖ *The impact of the coronavirus on global higher education (2020)* research revealed main challenges faced by higher education institutions during the crisis; health of university teachers and students; assurance of the normal course of the study process; transition from traditional to e-learning; planning, communication and uncertainty of continuity.

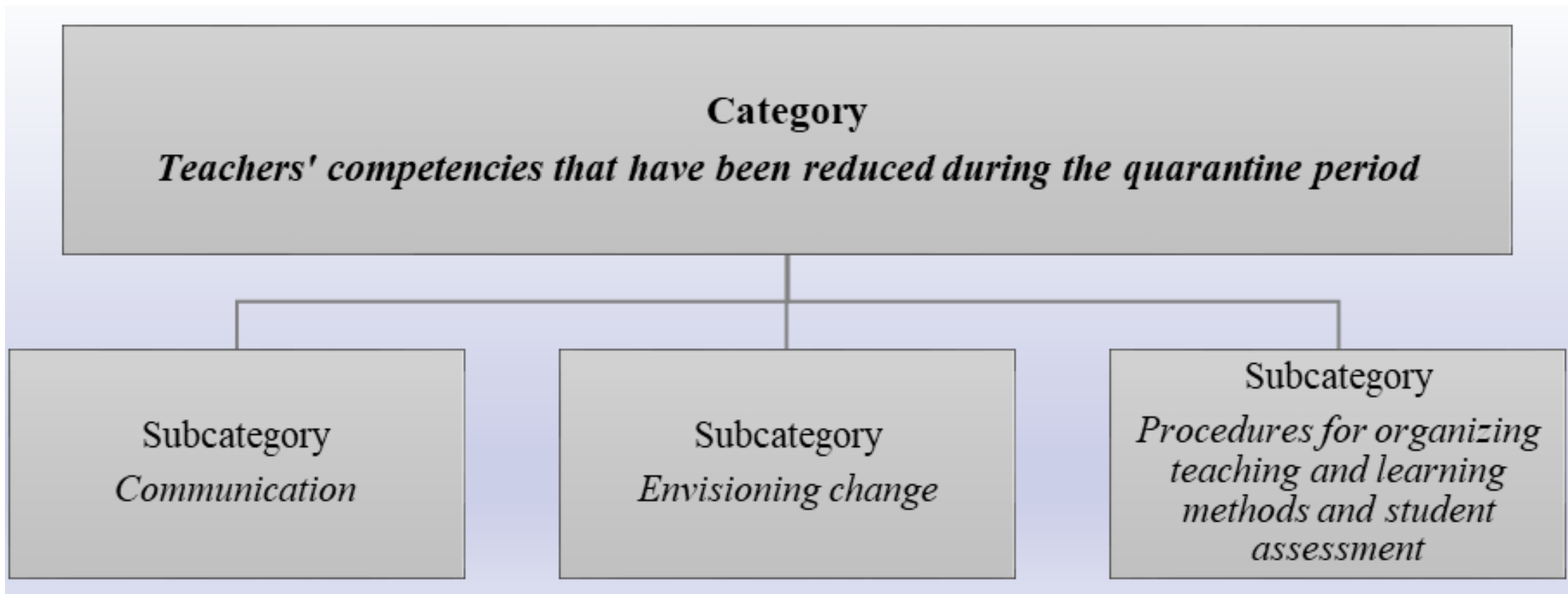
- ❖ The opinion of teachers of the Klaipėda University Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities on the change of their professional competencies during the Covid-19 pandemic was chosen as the object of the research.
- ❖ The aim of the research is to reveal peculiarities of university teachers' professional development and growth during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Methods: analysis of scientific literature and documents, interview, content data analysis.

- ❖ In this research participated 10 teachers working in Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. There were 3 male and 7 female university teachers who participated in the research. It was established that the pedagogical work experience of the participants is from 1 to 42 years (average: 24 years).
- ❖ The research was conducted in February – March 2021.
- ❖ The semi-structured interview method was chosen for the implementation of the research being one of the most convenient survey methods during which it is possible to obtain as much unstructured information about the research issue as possible.
- ❖ The following ethical principles have been followed during the implementation of the qualitative research (interview): goodwill, respect for the dignity of a person, justice, right to obtain accurate information.

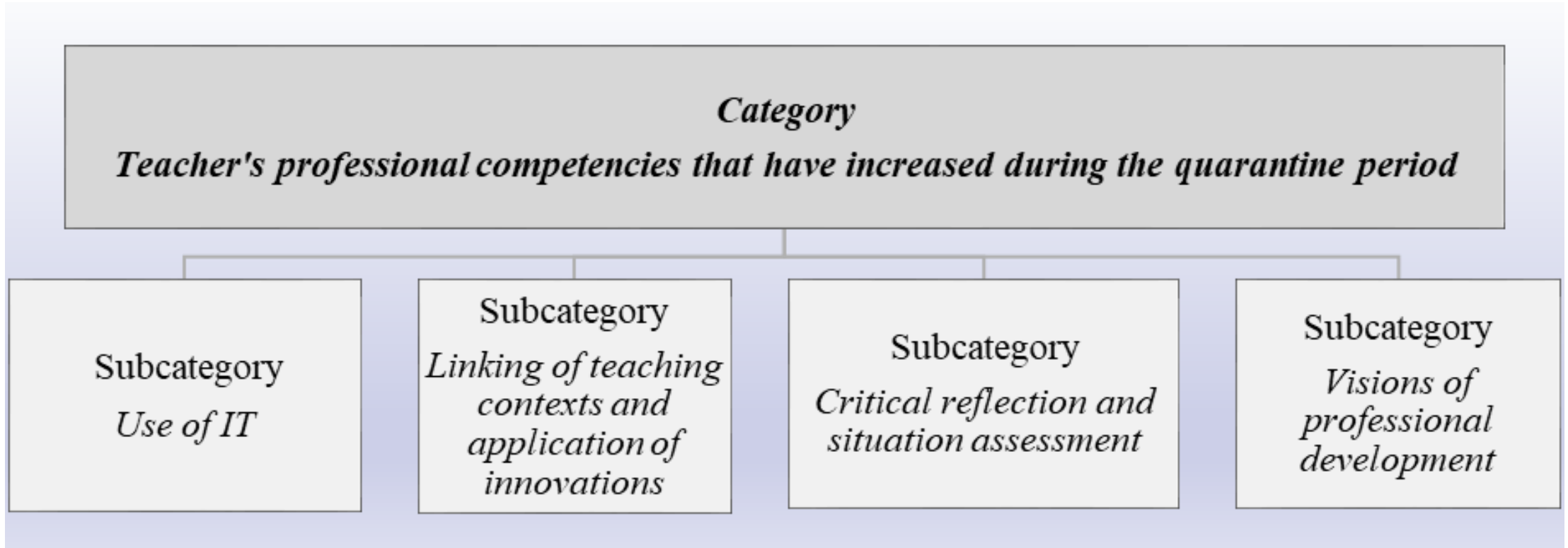
Category of informants' responses and subcategories of the change of teacher's competencies in professional activities



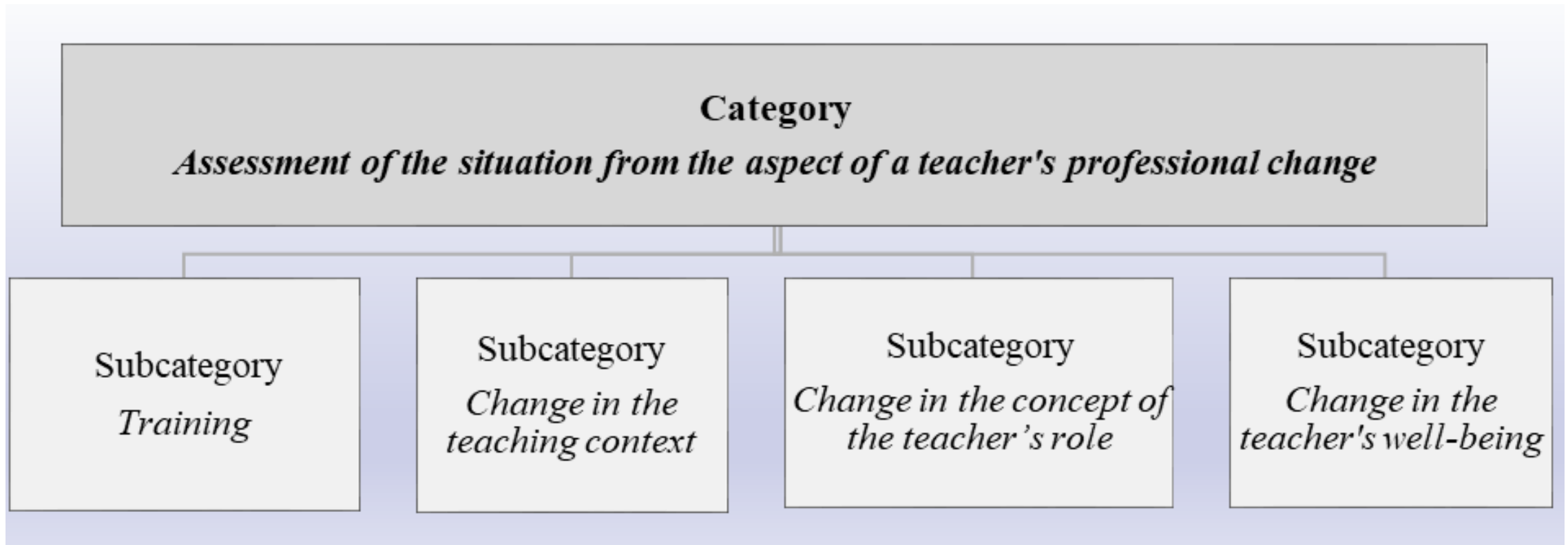
Category of informants' responses and subcategories of the reduced teacher's competencies



Category of informants' responses and subcategories of the increased teacher's competencies



Category and subcategories of informants' responses about the assessment of the situation from the aspect of a teacher's professional change





Conclusions

- ❖ Qualitative content analysis revealed that sudden changes caused by unforeseen conditions affected participants of the study process, posed new challenges for all teachers of the higher education institution.
- ❖ According to university teachers, the concept of their role, the nature of teaching/learning methods and organization have changed, subject knowledge had to be adapted to suit online studies.



- ❖ A striking feature is that though there was no time to prepare for these conditions, teachers were forced to find a creative and an innovative commitment to act, learn, improve and demonstrate adaptability and flexibility by strengthening teacher-student communication in a virtual environment, using new online platforms, and ensuring appropriate follow-up study activities.
- ❖ A variety of digital and technical tools have been used for distance learning: online platforms, social networks, general and specialized digital programs for the development and demonstration of learning materials.



- ❖ The research showed that distance learning in a higher education institution caused difficulties for teachers during the pandemic, but teachers were able to quickly master digital programs, manage information flows, collaborate with colleagues and students, engage in self-education, help students address the concerns raised that have really increased during the quarantine period, and at the same time maintain the continuity of the study process.



Klaipėdos
universitetas

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION.