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3 **Policy Paper**
4 **School on the Cloud:**
5 **Towards Unity not Uniformity in Education**
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8

9 **ABSTRACT**

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11 This paper, in examining the issues that underline the reality of the European pedagogical
12 system, shows that in order for the system to provide the two fundamental concepts in today's
13 education, namely unity (all schools to have equal opportunities, recourses and possibilities)
14 without uniformity (avoiding "typical" common teaching and learning practices), there is: a need to
15 work within a susceptible to present conditions educational paradigm; to have an appropriate
16 instrument to be able to do so; and a suitable educational environment to apply these concepts.
17 The solutions for fulfilling these needs are presented in the form of three unconventional, but
18 necessary propositions for education to move forward-2013. The first suggests that we are in an
19 era of a new network-centred education paradigm. The second is that Cloud Computing is the
20 main instrument of this new paradigm. The third one proposes a new School, the School on the
21 Cloud.
22

23 *Keywords: Cloud based Education, School on the Cloud, Cloud Computing*
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25

26 **1. INTRODUCTION**
27

28 The purpose of education is to successfully prepare students for the future, and therefore we
29 cannot continue educating them in ways that address education needs of the past (Fullan &
30 Langworthy, 2013). As Wellman (2015) has said "At this point we appear to have a 19th century
31 curriculum, 20th century buildings and organizations and 21st century students facing an undefined
32 future". That is, the world has changed in ways that we have not always been able to understand
33 and accept, but nevertheless we need to prepare students to face these changes. Thus, a new,
34 fresh, a authentic and unbounded educational approach is required to educate students for the
35 complex and challenging future (Gialamas et.al., 2013). This implies that there is a need for
36 changes in the ways of teaching and learning, which can be expressed in two clear and
37 unambiguous questions: what education system should there be? And how can we go about
38 determining it?
39

40 It should be self-evident that in order to establish the right approach in answering these questions,
41 it is necessary to understand the issues that underline the reality of the European pedagogical
42 system. This suggests there is a need to firstly discern the existing education system in order to
43 detect the important issues requiring attention and then provide answer as well as suggest
44 possible solutions. This approach will be followed in this paper.
45

46 In examining the European educational system the first issue that needs to be considered is:
47 which are the basic concepts related to teaching and learning, in order to address the required
48 changes. Even a cursory review of the innumerable reports and policy decisions, including those
49 by the European Commission, which has adopted a strategy for "Unleashing the Potential of
50 Cloud Computing in Europe", shows: on the one hand there is a need to find a way in designing
51 an environment of engagement with creativity and innovation, which should be the educational
52 norm for all educational institutions, or on the other hand provide the necessary educational unity
53 so that all schools will have equal treatment. In this respect all academic institutions have to be
54 provided with equal educational opportunities and experiences in order for the education process
55 to shift in ways that can catalyse/catalyze innovative approaches to learning. In other words, we
56 should design a system that has a norm of what should be available to all education institutions or
57 creates a form of pedagogic unity in order for the European educational environment to become
58 efficient.

59
60 This position is based on the notion that the way to the future and progress in education is only
61 achieved through an efficient educational system determined and operating within a global neo-
62 liberal economy (Friedman 2005). And it is towards this economic theory that the European Union
63 exhorts education stakeholders, mobilize them, justifies investment in new technologies as well
64 as rationalizes curriculum decisions. There are two forms of discourse to that position: from those
65 who accept the neo-liberal economy and consider technology-enhanced learning as an essential
66 modernizing tool for education (Negroponte 1996; Lego, quoted in Jenson 2006; Prensky 2005;
67 Heppell 2009), but who themselves are subject to critique from the sociology of the future (Bell
68 1997; Adam & Groves 2007), from critical studies in education (Gough 2000; Robertson *et al.*
69 2007), and from economists (Stiglitz 2006). The other and more important criticism comes from
70 those who are concerned with resisting the uniformity of imperialism leading to inevitable and
71 universal educational approaches to the present and the future. That is to say, the idea of a
72 uniform, singular and inevitable trajectory in the face of which education stakeholders in
73 association with local conditions have no role to play, has been the subject of critique from
74 various fields. By testifying to the need of diverse alternative trajectories (the end goal remains
75 common, but the way to achieve it changes) now and in the future, many researchers who
76 contribute to the field of educational technology are arguing for non-uniform approaches in
77 the future (for example, Gee *et al.* 1996; Apple 1997).

78
79 On the other hand, there is a need to create an educational system which can inspire all school
80 units to develop the means to transform their own identity into a powerful tool for designing their
81 teaching and learning practices or curriculum structures. This will be an identity which is
82 expressed by each educational institution's own needs and expectations and is determined by the
83 language, the culture, the particular conceptual structures of education and other factors which
84 can be found among the diverse ethnic, cultural and regional groups that inhabit the European
85 continent. In other words, there is a need to find the ways to design the individuals' personal and
86 communal learning space based on their identity, in order to move away from homogenization and
87 an ineffective educational environment. An environment that represents the driving force that
88 presently shapes (actually it is intensified with policies such as the Bologna accord), the European
89 university, for the time being, education scheme.

90
91 Therefore, the idea of education, as a singular, inevitable trajectory in the face of which
92 educational stakeholders including identity factors have no role, is not acceptable by a growing
93 number of scientists working on present and future education studies (Beare & Slaughter 2001;
94 Inayatullah 2008). Moreover, the notion of empowering education stakeholders and communities
95 to envisage and take action to build alternative and identity desirable futures, has started to have
96 many supporters. A characteristic example is the initiative of the Massachusetts Institute of
97 Technology Fab Lab (<http://fab.cba.mit.edu/>) that aims to create the means to build new
98 educational futures in the hands of communities, learners and educators. This position can

99 become clear by paraphrasing **Abracham** Lincoln that "the best way to predict the future is to
100 invent it, by taking into account identity factors".

101
102 The second issue is: what is the conceptual basis upon which these two fundamental needs and
103 their attendant changes can be attained. In response to that, it should pointed outthatnowadays
104 the Networked Information **S**Society, which has been interposed in education in the form of the
105 Network Centered Knowing paradigm (Koutsopoulos&Kotsanis, 2014),is unleashing two powerful
106 forces on teaching and learning. Both of these are available to practically every educational
107 institution and are related to theiraccess to high-speed networks. The first force empowers
108 education stakeholders of any school, anywhere, to have easy access **to** and use of ICT in the
109 form of Cloud Computing. As a result ,all education stakeholders can discover, consume and
110 produce information, resources and services and thus the educational system can provide the
111 **necessary** unity in teaching and learning. The second force provides ubiquitous access to open
112 content and standards as well as techniques for virtualization, making it possible to leverage
113 education through identity-related programs in unprecedented ways. What appears to be
114 emerging isan education system where its stakeholders have at their disposal teaching
115 techniques, learning practices and many educational related services which allow them to design
116 their own programs, negatingthe need for educational uniformity.

117
118 The third issue is related to the means required to achieve, within the networked**ed** information
119 society and educational paradigm, the proposed concept of unity without uniformity. It is
120 suggested that Cloud Computing, which is the fundamental instrument in a **C**loud based
121 educational environment, can fulfill all the earlier mentioned educational requirements. Indeed
122 Cloud Computing represents a fundamental change in the way computing power is generated
123 and distributed. The literature (Johnson, 2012; Bradshaw et al., 2012)indicates that this
124 technology can be a powerful way to apply a new educational approach. Moreover, as Microsoft
125 (2012) has declared "with cloud computing in education, you get powerful software and massive
126 computing resources where and when you need them (and we may add in any way you desire),
127 in order to apply new educational approaches ... Cloud services can be used to combine on-
128 demand computing and storage, familiar experience with on-demand scalability and online
129 services for anywhere, anytime access to powerful web-based tools". **This suggests** it can
130 support an educational system providing **Cloud** based-education **to educational stakeholders**,
131 with all the attendant benefits.

132
133 Finally,the last issue raised is: what is the educational environment within which to work or how to
134 practically apply to the classroom the concepts presented previously? The results of several
135 **C**loud based education projects(Donert &Bonanou, 2015;Malmierca. et. al., 2015)indicate that
136 these objectives are achievable in a new school, the School on Cloud(SoC).The reason is that as
137 learning becomes increasingly digital, online access becomes the necessary vehicle for the
138 emerging Cloud-based developments (Donert, 2013) and thus offers an educational
139 system,which is not only efficient(provides unity), but also effective (evades uniformity) way to
140 access and administer education. That is **to say**, the new School on **the** Cloud provides an
141 approach that aligns with the way we should think, share, learn and collaborate as it is
142 determined by **a**networked**ed** information approach that nowadays determines many aspects of our
143 activities including education. In other words, the new School on **the** Cloud offers an opportunity
144 to transform the role of education stakeholders, as they help young people to access any learning
145 at any place and any time from any teacher with the right expertise, but within an identity
146 determined framework.

147
148 From this examination it should be evident that in order to achieve the major **goals concepts** of
149 education, namely unity without uniformity, there is: a need to work within a susceptible **to present**
150 educational paradigm **to present the right conditions**; to have the appropriate instrument to be
151 able to do so; and the suitable educational setting toapply them. These needs and their
152 characteristics (shown schematically on Fig.1) are examined in the next sections of this paper.

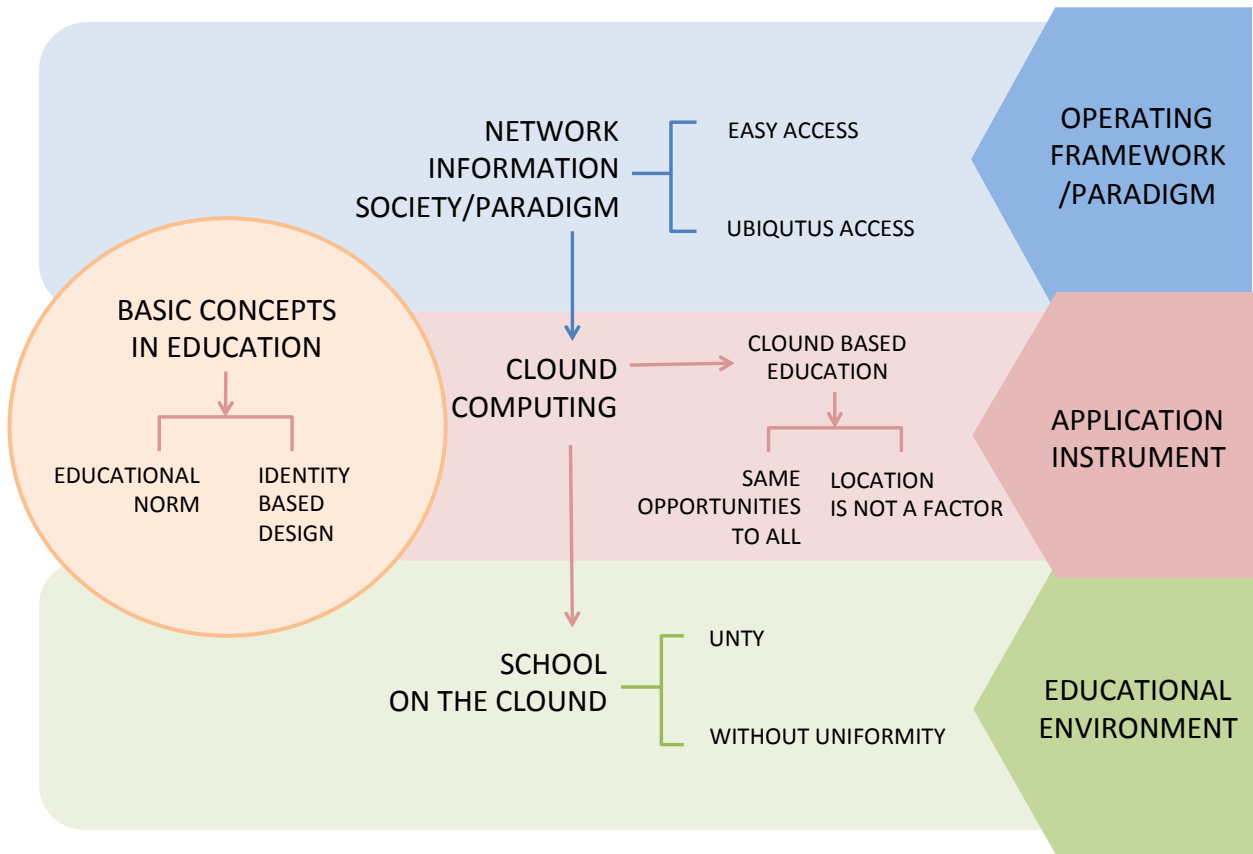
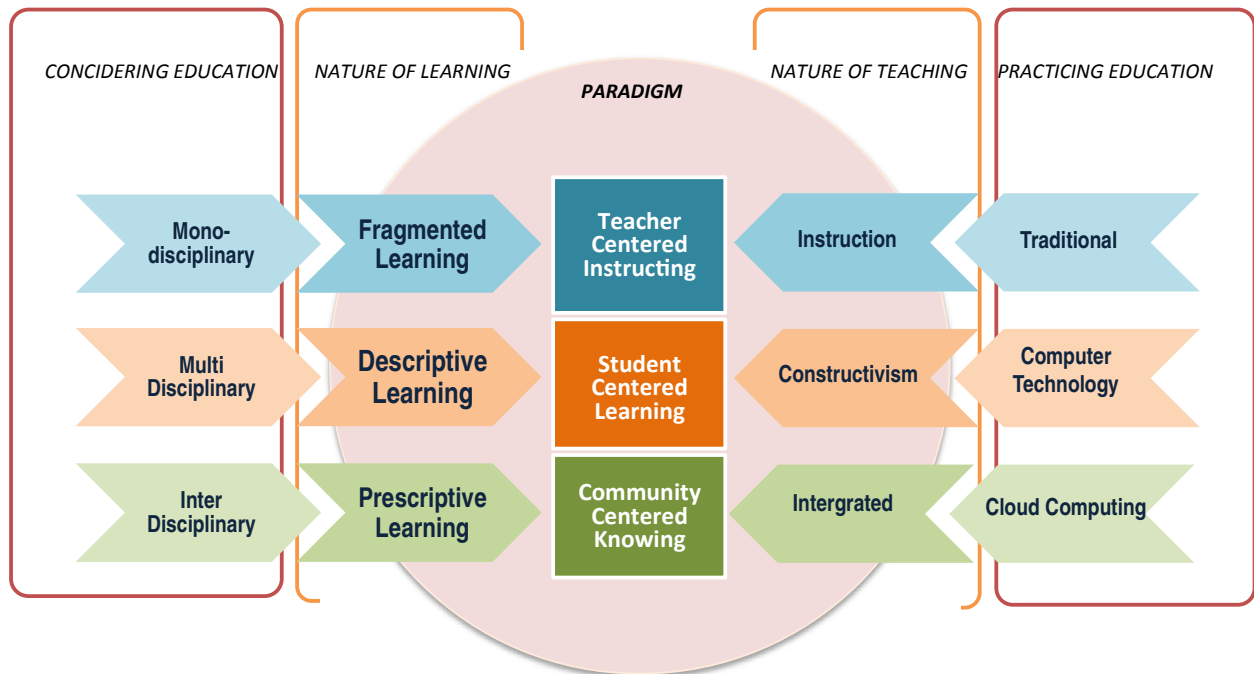


Fig 1 : The Education System

1.1 The Network Centered Knowing Paradigm

At the onset, it should be declared that today the concept of unity without uniformity should be at the centre of the pedagogic approach towards teaching and learning. But this leads to the position (Koutsopoulos, 2015b) that not only is the traditional *Teacher Centred instructing paradigm* representing an instructing approach, as well as the much heralded present approaches to education, defined as the *Student Centred learning paradigm* focused on a constructivism based learning, are now absolute. and we We thus find ourselves in the period of the *Network Centred knowing paradigm* where knowledge is achieved through *integration* and is based on *Cloud Computing*. More specific, it is therefore suggested that in the last few years teaching and learning has, through two parallel changes in the way education is perceived and is investigated, gone through two paradigm shifts (Fig. 2), as considered by Kuhn (1962). These are briefly examined next.

For a long time the traditional *Teacher Centred instructing paradigm* was the exclusive environment within which the education system operated. This paradigm was characterized by a *monodisciplinary* environment (education was the exclusive realm of educators) within which a "fragmented" approach to educational needs and obligations was prevalent and where the teacher alone transmitted information to students who passively listened and acquired facts from the simple transmission of an *instruction* based curriculum.



177
178 **Fig. 2 Paradigm shifts in education**
179
180

181 This paradigm has been replaced (the first paradigm shift) by a Student
182 Centered learning paradigm, representing today's prevailing educational environment. In this
183 paradigm learning is expressed in the form of a set of separate relations, interdependences and
184 interactions leading to a multidisciplinary framework in education, which is focused, as previously,
185 in a descriptive way on both individual learners and on learning itself. But this notion of a
186 descriptive-multidimensional education requires computer technology which is based in a world of
187 computers and interactive software (Dede, 2008), leading to a constructivist approach in practicing
188 teaching and learning.

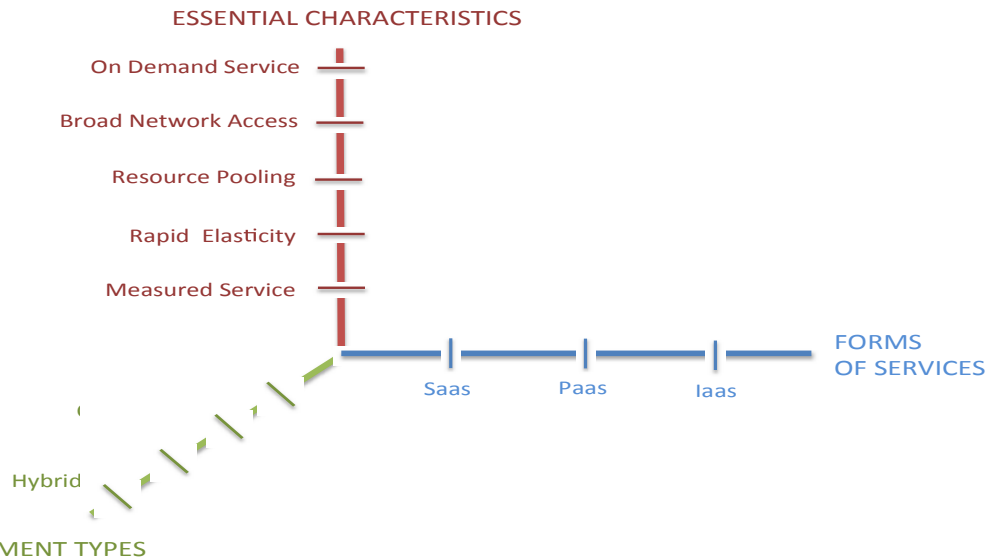
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190 Both these approaches cannot satisfy the complex and challenging conditions prevailing in the
191 present day education environment (Koutsopoulos & Kotsanis, 2014; Koutsopoulos, 2011:45). As a
192 result, nowadays a new Network Centered knowing approach is needed (the second paradigm
193 shift), which requires an interdisciplinary approach leading towards the integration of all possible
194 learning actors and approaches in order to overcome the compartmentalization of knowledge.
195 However, such a vision of teaching and learning establishes an holistic education that implies
196 prescriptive learning (the way students should learn) as well as encompasses all stakeholders in
197 different ways, with the use of Cloud Computing.

198
199 This necessary conditions for today's Network Centered knowing paradigm, which promotes
200 Cloud based education, represents a framework which can successfully serve and support with
201 the same resources and the same opportunities as well as provide the means to design all
202 education institutions according to local needs and conditions. Therefore, it qualifies as an ideal
203 environment for educational unity without uniformity.

204
205 **1.2 Cloud Computing**

206 In order to appreciate the Network centered knowing paradigm's contribution towards unity without
207 uniformity in education the concept of cloud computing needs to be fully understood as well as
208 realize how its components can be utilized in the operation of such an educational approach.
209 There seems to be many definitions of Cloud Computing around. The global management

210 consulting firm, McKinsey, found that there are 22 possible separate definitions of Cloud
 211 Computing, none of them dealing with educational concerns. In fact, no common standard or
 212 definition for Cloud Computing seems to exist (Grossman, 2009; Voas and Zhang, 2009; Fadi, 2015).
 213 However, despite the many definitions and the various terms suggested by computer
 214 experts and Cloud users, the concept of Cloud Computing can be described as an ICT
 215 technology that can be fully represented as a three dimensional space consisting of the
 216 *characteristics axis*, that includes: On demand service, Network access, Resource pooling, Rapid
 217 elasticity and Measured service; *the type of service axis*, that includes: Infrastructure, Platform
 218 and Software; and the *form of deployment axis*, that includes: Private, Community, Public and
 219 Hybrid. (NIST, U.S Department of Commerce, 2013; Koutsopoulos & Kotsanis, 2014) (Fig.
 220 3). Creating in this way a framework whose axes are an integral part of an educational system
 221 which can be designed to offer unity without the constraints of uniformity, as they are briefly
 222 presented next.
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 224



225
 226
 227 **Figure 3: Cloud Computing Framework**
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229 **1.2.1 Cloud Computing Provides Unity**

230 Cloud Computing represents an instrument which can successfully serve and support: multitasking,
 231 flexibility, the ability to handle a large number of applications and to meet changing demands, as
 232 well as access to stored files, e-mails, databases and other applications from anywhere at
 233 request. It represents a familiar and appropriate tool for today's education participants (the first
 234 generation to grow up within the digital technology era). Moreover, it can support with the same
 235 resources as well as provide the same opportunities to all major education stakeholders (students,
 236 teachers and administrators) no matter where they are located, thus qualifying as an ideal
 237 environment for educational unity.

238
 239 **1.2.2 Cloud computing Avoids Uniformity**
 240

241 Cloud Computing offers unimaginable capacity, among others, in using technology to connect
 242 people across vast distances and store and share information in ways that provide access virtually
 243 from anywhere (Ferrari 2015; Donert and Bonanou 2014). This paper in examining Cloud
 244 Computing, without ignoring the existence of sizeable attendant issues (i.e. cost, security, law
 245 issues etc.) that must be addressed, it focuses on the issue of location as it relates to education.

246 More specifically, the fact that “the Cloud” refers to machines located in large data centers, raises
247 a host of interesting questions about the role of location in shaping the impact of Cloud Computing
248 and the level of services available to education stakeholders located at any education institution
249 (either in a school at the centre of a city, in a remote village or in a Roma reservation area). Cloud
250 Computing, by centralizing information and computing resources (quite contrary to the imagery that
251 the name “Cloud” evokes), transcends location constraints imposed by users on the Cloud
252 itself. Moreover, Cloud-based education although situated on the opposite end of the *distance*
253 *education* spectrum with Moore’s Theory of Transactional Distance (Moore, 1991), and avoids
254 most of its shortcomings (Hill et al., 2009), it shares the basic principle that cognitive
255 space, functioning to overcome physical distance between learners and instructors, or
256 teaching/learning methods or materials, or curriculum etc. is an acceptable and beneficial
257 approach to education. As a result, the unusual combination of the great abilities offered by Cloud
258 Computing and the ubiquity in providing Cloud based education, negates the necessity for
259 physical closeness of the educational factors and the need for locally available educational
260 resources, thus raising serious questions about the universal value and utility of location in
261 education.

262
263 For a balanced approach, however, the issue of location in education should be considered in
264 terms of the dictum “Geography matters but not Distance”. More specifically, on the one hand as
265 ICT developments, in the form of Cloud Computing, are diminishing the “need for presence” in
266 remote interactions and such interactions are developing not only between families, friends and
267 co-workers, but also between education stakeholders. The notion of being ‘together apart’ is
268 becoming a familiar aspect of working, interacting and entertaining as well as in educating
269 ourselves. That is to say, the separation of ‘information resources’ from physical locations with
270 the coming of Cloud computing has become “natural”, resulting in the diminution of the
271 importance of location.

272
273 On the other hand, Geography still matters because Geography will continue to influence the
274 access of individuals and groups to digital networks, for location will continue to determine in most
275 cases their pricing, infrastructure, legal constraints and regulation. Moreover, the “face to face”
276 interaction will retain its importance, especially in terms of the social aspects of our lives, because
277 physical proximity is paramount for most of us. For example, people will continue to use “place”
278 and physical location as a marker for identity, which as it was shown it plays an important role in
279 education among other areas of human endeavors .

280
281 To summarise, when someone familiar with Cloud Computing will be asked a question about the
282 role of location in education, he will surely chuckle and reply something akin to: “The location of
283 the Cloud user and of the Cloud itself are irrelevant. Anyone is able to tap into the power of the
284 cloud, located at any place, from anywhere”. This answer, while technically and empirically
285 accurate, misses an important issue, namely: Cloud Computing negates the necessity of
286 considering location as a factor to reckon with, at least when considering “non typical” (i.e. rural
287 and remote schools) and consequently the need to impose upon them a *uniformity* in teaching
288 and learning practices or curriculum structures that developed centrally and applied in “typical”
289 urban schools.

291 1.3 The School on the Cloud

292
293 The basic principle that “*Technology changes, Education survives*” signifies the role of education
294 as a societal necessity and the need to explore their potential implications to education. It has
295 shown that ICT changes, in the form of Cloud-based technologies (Pallis, 2010; Koutsopoulos,
296 2015a), provide the power to fundamentally change how education should be approached and
297 practiced, substantiating the effort to institute unity without uniformity in education.

298
299 As a result, in order to achieve such goals, the new School on the Cloud has to address the
300 following two key questions: How should education respond to cloud-based technologies? What
301 is the impact, now and in the future, on education stakeholders and teachers? Results from

302 applications of Cloud technologies in the classroom, including the most recent ones (Donert and
303 Bonanou, 2015) indicate that in answering these two questions in essence their work reaffirms the
304 need for the proposed concept of unity without conformity and create the foundations in applying
305 it. The reason is simple: The School on the Cloud educational approach brings many benefits to
306 education as well as accelerating trends and developments at the interface of Cloud Computing
307 and education (Armbrust et al., 2010; Malmiera et al., 2015). This in turn increases the ability of
308 stakeholders to adjust or alter their educational objectives. In this way, the benefits to education
309 substantiate the existence and need for unity and the trends emerging from developments in
310 society, in technology and mainly in education highlight the ability of innovations to eliminate the
311 need for uniformity in education.

312 **1.3.1 School on the Cloud Characteristics Supporting a Unifying education System**

313 Experience and the literature (Bradshaw et al., 2012) shows that there is a range of resources
314 and services available to enable Cloud based education, among which are: infrastructure,
315 services, solutions, the introduction of new processes etc. The School on the Cloud, as a Cloud-
316 based approach, provides the conditions for every educational institution to have equal
317 opportunities, resources and possibilities (norms in education). In other words, the much
318 sought unity can be easily achieved, because the School on the Cloud provides the following
319 unifying promoting conditions:

320 **1.3.1.1 Affordability**

321 Cloud based processes promote in general and in education in particular a cost effective use of
322 ITC resources, thus reduce their cost and make them affordable to all units and all stakeholders
323 (equalize possibilities).

324 **1.3.1.2 Flexibility**

325 Cloud-based teaching and learning can prevent individual investments in equipment, programs
326 etc., because the infrastructures of Cloud Computing are centralized and thus promote flexibility in
327 various ways (IBM, 2010) (equalizes resources).

328 **1.3.1.3 Efficiency**

329 Cloud based approaches by promoting the exchange between teachers and students and the
330 participation of their social networks and the parents, leads to creating educational norms by
331 determining: firstly, the appropriate to the stage of education information and tools and secondly
332 the appropriate and efficient learning and teaching process (Tuncay, 2010) (equalizes treatment).

333 **1.3.1.4 Sharing**

334 Cloud-based techniques provide the means in every institution to avoid the duplication of
335 resources that exist elsewhere. Hence skills, good practices, applications, teaching content and
336 infrastructures can be pooled and shared, thus avoiding educational inequalities between
337 institutions (equalizes opportunities).

338 **1.3.2 School on the Cloud Characteristics Eliminating Uniformity in Education**

339 The School on the Cloud, by being at the forefront of Cloud Computing technology, provides to
340 education a series of innovations which offers to the teaching and learning system the ability to be
341 adjusted, altered or revised using factors of identity. This enables us to design the way in which
342 education institutions, students and teachers are able to use equipment, applications and subject
343 content. In other words, the new School on Cloud provides the following innovations, which in turn
344 offer identity related or individualized to institution and stakeholders applications to teaching and
345 learning in overcoming uniformity constraints (IBM, 2010):

346 **1.3.2.1 Intelligent Classroom**

347 Cloud-based education, by providing the resources for a set of tools and applications (access to
348 courses, syllabus subject contents, etc.) can contribute in creating a classroom with accepted
349

357 quality and effectiveness of teaching that can be considered intelligent, but which avoid the
358 pitfalls of uniformity.

359 **.1.3.2.2 Virtual Classroom**

360 Cloud based education,by providing the necessarycommunication and collaboration tools, can
361 help bring down the walls of the classroom and give rise to the virtual classroom,which enables:

362 ✓ Students of the same age located in distant institutions, towns or countries toshare in the
363 experience of any class being taught online.

364 ✓ Teachers in a certain location to teach classes in a different school, town, country or even
365 continent, complete with the required material.

366 ✓ Researchers can have instant access to research and discoveries from any parallel or
367 linked center around the world.

368 That is, it allows education stakeholders to achieve unity by **breaking** all forms of **barrier** orwithout
369 the problems of uniformity.

370

371 **1.3.2.3 Virtual Lab**

372 Cloud-based education by offering the resources for processing, calculating and simulating can
373 contribute in creating virtual labs. More specifically, students and teachers can carry out, in a
374 virtual form, the simulations or experiments they need or want in any subject (chemistry, physics,
375 social sciences, economics, etc.), and **with** any degree of difficulty (from the simplest to the most
376 complex), all in accordance to their specific design and requirements, overcoming any uniformity
377 constrains.

378

379 **1.3.2.4 Virtual Content**

380 Cloud-based education by providingDigital IWB's (Interactive Whiteboards), it can help create a
381 virtual reference system of content that remains in the public domain and thus avoiding the pitfalls
382 of using nothing but the costly commercial content. But mainly such a system can provide
383 teachers with the choice of using a content as is, alter it to meet their needs, adapt it to the local
384 conditions, or finally use it to supplement their own and in generalavoid uniformity.

385 As a result, the School on **the Cloud** offers to its students a series of very important competences
386 which allows them to face the concepts of unity without uniformity:

387

388 **1.3.2.5 Digitalization**

389 Refers to their ability to efficiently, confidently and critically use the new ICT technologiesin order
390 to search, sift, organize, manage and evaluate information in an efficient and targeted totheir
391 individual needs.

392

393 **1.3.2.6 Learning**

394 Is related to students' ability for learning to learn. That is, students are motivated to pursue their
395 own learning progress and knowing how to process information, assigning meaning to it and
396 converting it into knowledge.

397

398 **1.3.2.7 Understanding**

399 Is associated with students' globalunderstanding. That is, by overcoming uniformity constraints
400 they canacquire the competence of understanding in order to be able to analyze the surrounding
401 world, be social and part of the universal society.

402

403 **1.3.2.8 Collaborating**

404 Corresponds to a crucial skill that needs to be learned and practiced from early on in education,
405 and Cloud based education can support it. That is, students need to learn to: listen, respect,
406 negotiate and even accept ideas **expressed** by others, understand and work in teams and
407 different roles, and finally participate in communal activities.

408

409 **1.3.2.9 Updating**

410 This skill refers to the ability of students to use the **resources** of the Cloud in order to be **better**
411 prepared for the continuous changes and developments, as well as **continued** updating **of** such
412 skills as: autonomy, lifelong learning, flexibility, innovation, creativity etc.

413

414 **1.3.2.10 Communicating**

415 The use of Cloud **Computing** in terms of learning and practicing foreign languages helps students
416 put **an** emphasis on using **it** as a means for communication with other people and not on
417 grammatical or syntactical correctness per se.

418

419 **In closing**, it should be noted that the proposed School on the Cloud is not anymore a novice
420 application of Cloud **Computing** to education, which promises to deliver many exciting things. It is
421 already a reality and there are many successful implementations **of it** (Johnson, 2012; Bradshaw
422 et al., 2012; Malmierca, 2015; Donert and Bonanou, 2014). **The** School on the Cloud is a new and
423 different school that has been born, is partly operating now and is going to stay with us at least in
424 the foreseeable future, for it is characterized by *unity without uniformity*

425

426 **4. CONCLUSIONS**

427

428 The way education is perceived and is practiced nowadays does not correspond to the needs and
429 their very nature of the education stakeholders. **On** the contrary, the education paradigm in use
430 can only create confusion and difficulties **to students**. ~~that deprive present day students of the~~
431 ~~tools they need most to master the skills and dexterities that they will require both in today's and~~
432 ~~tomorrow's world.~~ As a result, the existing system:

433

- **deprives** *many* students of the tools they need most to master the necessary skills and

434

- **forces** *all* of them to follow a predetermined path to achieve them (not avoiding the
barriers of *uniformity*)

435

436

437 Contrary to these, this paper has demonstrated that we should move towards the new network
438 centered paradigm, which in essence forces Cloud **Computing** **to be** the main educational tool. An
439 instrument which provides to *all* the present day, **generation Z** (students born in the 21st century)
440 not only the required skills and dexterities, but in a uniformity free environment.

441

442 The final question, which is related and to the issues posed in the beginning of this paper, has to
443 be: is the School on the Cloud just another education fad or the only way to deal with the basic
444 issues facing education? Considering them merely either as a fad or the ultimate education truth,
445 however, misses the deeper contribution of the School on the Cloud as the true base upon which
446 to develop, construct and apply the new Network centered knowing paradigm in educating
students in a holistic way for the complex and challenging future.

447

448 In conclusion, the proposed School on the Cloud is creating a unified education system (all schools
449 to have equal opportunities, **resources** and possibilities), avoiding at the same time uniformity (the
450 need to follow "typical" teaching and learning practices). Thus, leading to the dictum, which it is
about time for all of us to embrace and wholeheartedly support:

451

*In education all flowers (schools) can bloom as long as they can find the appropriate "cloud" to
grow upon.*

452

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