

policy, according to which citizens would learn “at least two foreign languages from a very early age” (European Council 2002). But would implementation of this policy make European citizens multilingual enough? From my point of view, there is a need to incorporate further elements into European policies on multilingualism.

Multilingualism is related to language policies, but that is not the full story. Cenoz (2013), who provides a wide spectrum of definitions of multilingualism, reminds us that multilingualism is multidimensional, involving, for example, the individual versus the social dimension, the proficiency versus use dimension, bilingualism versus multilingualism, etc. It can also be applied to geographical areas or social spheres. Moreover, it can be studied from different perspectives, including those of cognition, social construction, identity, language practices, multimodalities and technologies, among others. From the simplest definition in Wikipedia (“the use of more than one language, either by an individual speaker or by a group of speakers”) to the more complex multidimensional definitions provided by Cenoz (2013), in this chapter I will adopt the European Commission’s definition of multilingualism as “the ability of societies, institutions, groups and individuals to engage, on a regular basis, with more than one language in their day-to-day lives” (European Commission 2007). The term *engage* allows us to incorporate a useful nuance for the purposes of this book. By writing this chapter, I wish to invite readers to consider whether multilingualism can be defined from a technological perspective, adapting the above-mentioned definition used by the European Commission.

### Discussion topic

Is there a “technological multilingualism”, understood as the ability of societies, institutions, groups and individuals to engage, on a regular basis, with more than one language in their day-to-day lives, through multilingual translation tools?

Interestingly, the above-mentioned report from the High Level Group on Multilingualism, which provided our definition of multilingualism, mentions “the potential of multilingual electronic tools as support for non-specialist users of second and third languages” (European Commission 2007) as a research area. Likewise, the European Commission’s communication on “Multilingualism – an asset and a commitment” (European Commission 2014) claims that “the language