

# A look at Hungary's EU refugee referendum

Hungary is holding a referendum over the European Union's plan to set mandatory quotas for the distribution of refugees among member states

**Question:** "Do you want the European Union to be able to order the mandatory settlement of non-Hungarian citizens in Hungary even without the consent of parliament?"

## ORIGINS OF REFERENDUM



### May 2015

In response to refugee crisis, EU proposes to relocate 40,000 asylum seekers from Italy and Greece to other member states

■ **Sep:** Numbers to be relocated increased to 160,000 – including 54,000 from Hungary to elsewhere in EU. Hungarian Prime Minister **Viktor Orbán** (above) refuses to take part

■ **Feb 2016:** Orbán announces referendum over permanent EU plan for refugee relocation. Plan could see member states fined €250,000 for each refugee they refuse to take

## OPINIONS IN HUNGARY\*



**76 percent** of people surveyed think refugees would increase likelihood of terrorism



**82 percent** think refugees would burden country by taking jobs and social security benefits

\*Pew Research Centre survey, Apr-May 2016

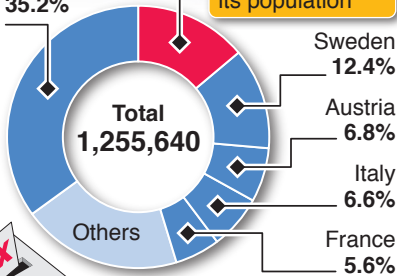
☐ Yes

☐ No

**First time asylum applicants** (share in EU total, 2015)

Germany 35.2%

**Hungary 13.9%**  
Almost 175,000 applicants – highest number in proportion to its population



## OUTCOME OF VOTE

■ **Hungary:** Government "no" campaign seen as likely to win. At least 50 percent of eligible voters must take part for result to be valid

■ **Visegrad Group:** Hungary's fellow members – Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia – also oppose refugee relocation, and could use "no" vote to advance EU treaty reform proposals