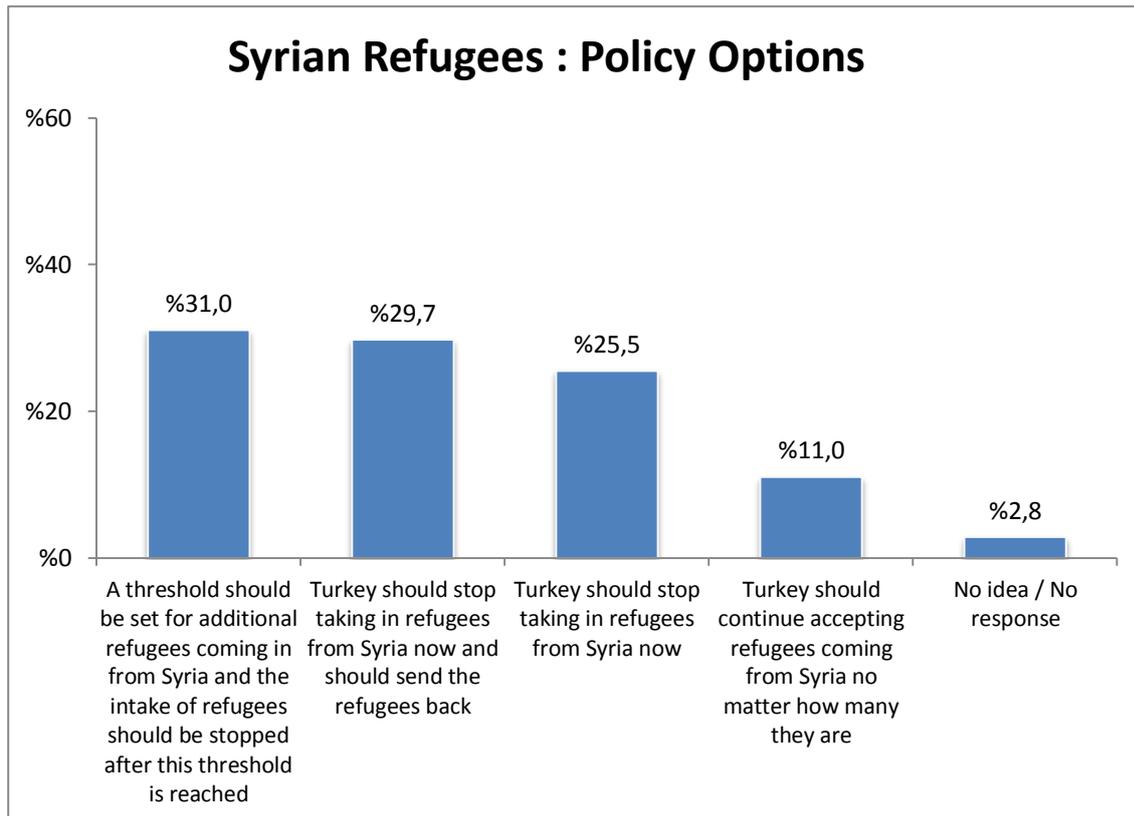


## Reaction mounting against Syrian refugees in Turkey



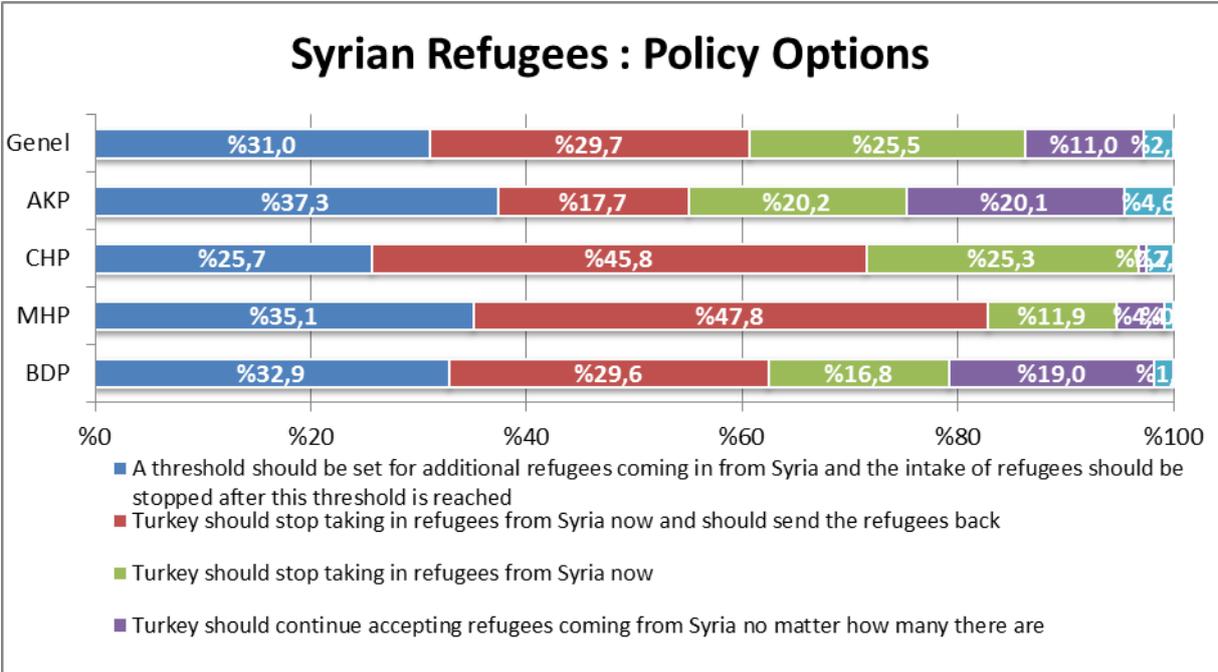
According to the public opinion survey carried out by TNS in Turkey on behalf of the Centre for Economic and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM), the consensus among the public opinion is that the country should stop taking in more refugees from Syria<sup>1</sup>. 86 percent of the participants argue that no further Syrian refugees should be allowed in the country. Only 11 percent of the participants believe that the country should continue taking in future refugees from Syria.

There appears to be a big divide between different party bases. While AKP supporters that took part in the survey believe that a limit should be placed on the number of refugees; CHP and MHP voters that participated in the survey clearly state that their first preference is sending back the refugees to Syria.

<sup>1</sup> The survey was carried out in November 2013 with a sample size of 1515 people representing Turkish citizens above the age of 18.

During the survey, the surveyors listed Turkey’s options regarding refugees coming in from Syria to participants and asked which option the participants preferred the most<sup>2</sup>.

31 percent of the people that were surveyed argued that a limit for the number of total refugees that would be allowed in the country should be determined and that the country should stop taking in refugees after that threshold was reached. While 25 percent of the participant argued that the country should stop taking in Syrian refugees immediately, 30 percent were of the opinion that the country should both stop taking in refugees and should return the refugees that are based in Turkey now. The total percentage of these three options which argue that the intake of Syrian refugees should be ceased amounts to 86 percent, whereas 11 percent of the participants argued that the country should continue taking in Syrian refugees.



There appear to be divisions among party bases on Turkey’s policy alternatives regarding incoming refugees from Syria. 20 percent of AKP and BDP voters support the option of continuing with the open door policy without any restrictions on the total number of refugees. A very small share of the CHP (0.7%) and MHP (4.4%) electorate favored this option.

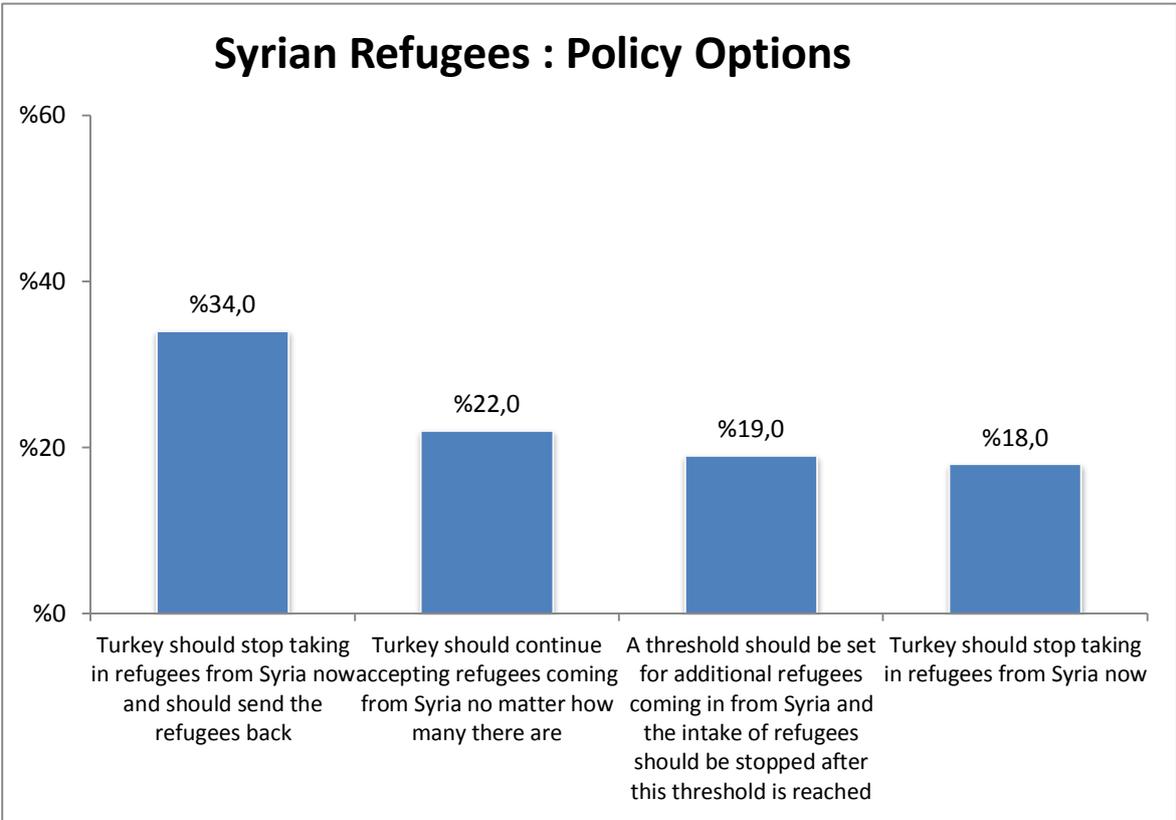
The policy alternative that is preferred most among the AKP as well as BDP voters that took part in the survey is putting a threshold to the total amount of future refugees and halting the intake of refugees when that threshold is reached. A third of the participants from both voter bases prefer this policy. 35 percent of the MHP and 25 percent of the CHP party base have favored this option. For the CHP as well as the MHP electorate, the favored policy option by almost half of the survey participants

<sup>2</sup> The question that was asked in the survey was as follows: “As you know, until today 500,000 (five hundred thousand) refugees from Syria have come to Turkey due to the ongoing conflict in Syria. It is supposed that the expenditures for refugees have reached to 2 billion dollars. How do you think should Turkey act about the refugees from now on? Which of the options that I will read out is close to your opinion on the matter?”

is to stop further intake of Syrian refugees and to start sending back the refugees that are currently based in Turkey.

If we compare participants from different constituencies, AKP voters are more open on the issue of Syrian refugees, while CHP and MHP voters prefer a more restricted policy. BDP voters stand in the middle of these two poles.

When we take demographic variables into account, we see that there is no major difference between men and women, while the younger generations favor a more open policy towards Syrian refugees. 15 percent of the participants that are between the ages of 18 and 24 suggest that the country should continue taking in Syrian refugees unconditionally, whereas 40 percent argue that the inflow should continue until a certain threshold is reached.



The same question was asked by EDAM to a panel of foreign policy experts. It was revealed in the study to which 119<sup>3</sup> experts participated, that the top choice of the experts is stopping taking in refugees from now on. While a third of the experts agree on this option, other views have received less support. It is seen that the experts that prefer a more closed policy regarding Syrian refugees and those that prefer a more open policy have roughly the same ratio.

<sup>3</sup> 119 experts have participated in the expert study and the research was conducted by Infakto RW.