

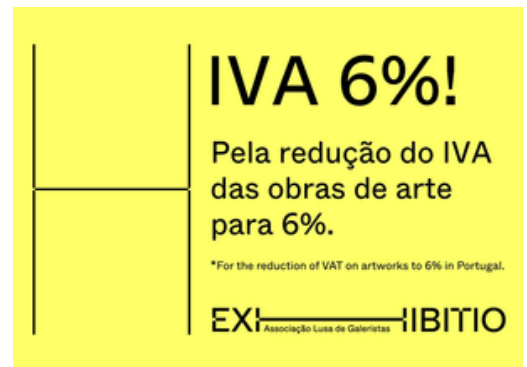
# EXI Associação Lusa de Galeristas EXHIBITIO

## For the reduction of VAT on artworks to 6% in Portugal

On March 24, 2025, the national arts and culture ecosystem, in particular the art galleries and artists, were surprised by a change that, besides contradicting the promises of the government and the Minister of Culture, compromises the growth, competitiveness, internationalization, and sustainability of the art market and national artistic production.

With the elimination of the Special Regime applied to works of art in force since 1996, and the end of the margin-based VAT system, **the final cost of acquiring works of art**, in Portugal or through Portuguese companies, **increases for the final consumer with the 23% tax.**

The only possible path, following the example of other European players and aiming at convergence, is the reduction of the VAT applied to works of art to 6%. **ARCOLisboa 2025** is the central stage of contemporary art, a meeting place for collectors, gallerists, artists, and professionals at a global level, and **the place chosen by the Associação Lusa de Galeristas – EXHIBITIO to make its voice heard in favor of reducing the VAT on works of art to 6%.**



The VAT applied to works of art is not deductible by individuals – the final consumers. And for companies, since a work of art is considered a non-depreciable asset (as it is viewed as an investment that may increase in value over time), it also represents only a cost.

**What is the margin-based VAT system?**

Under the special scheme, it was possible for the VAT on the transfer of art objects to be calculated on the difference between the sale price and the purchase price. This means that the amount of tax to be paid (VAT) was not applied to the total value, but only to the seller's margin.

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## CHRONOLOGY

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**23 June 2022** - The Council of Europe Directive (EU) 2022/542, which allows the application of reduced VAT rates on works of art.

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**1 January 2024** - France implemented the reduced VAT rate of 5.5% on works of art in accordance with Directive (EU) 2022/542.

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**1 January 2025** – The VAT reduction applied to works of art by two key reference countries – Germany at 7% and France at 5.5%.

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**February 2025** – Other EU countries begin exploring alignment with the VAT reduction on works of art: Italy, Spain, **Portugal**, Austria, Belgium.

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**4 March 2025** - Minister of Culture Dalila Rodrigues announces the intention to reduce VAT to 6% on works of art on the occasion of ARCOMadrid 2025.

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**24 March 2025** – Decree-Law 33/2025 of 24/03 is published, eliminating the margin scheme applied to works of art.

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**29 March 2025** – The Decree-Law takes effect, applying the standard VAT rate of 23% to works of art.

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The reduction of the VAT rate, in accordance with the European directive, is therefore the mission of EXHIBITIO, following the example of international markets such as **France**, which applies a **VAT of 5.5%** on works of art, and **Germany** with **7%**.

In Italy and Belgium, proposals are underway to reduce the VAT rate on works of art, and **the path to follow in Portugal** — if the objective is to align with the European directive — must be **the reduction of VAT on the acquisition of works of art from 23% to 6%**.

On the occasion of ARCOLisboa 2025, and after March 29, 2025, VAT on works of art, with the end of the margin-based VAT system, did not decrease, but rather increased.

The only possible path is the reduction of VAT applied to works of art to 6%. There is no viable alternative.

### In the press:

15.01.2025 / RTP Notícias / [Galerias de arte alertam para risco de oportunidade perdida sobre diretiva europeia no IVA](#)  
04.03.2025 / RTP Notícias / [IVA da cultura poderá ser reduzido para 6 por cento](#)  
04.03.2025 / TSF / [Ministra da Cultura quer reduzir IVA dos galeristas de arte para 6%](#)  
04.03.2025 / Observador / [Ministra da Cultura quer reduzir para 6% IVA dos galeristas de arte](#)  
11.03.2025 / Notícias ao Minuto / [Governo aprova transposição de diretiva sobre IVA para obras de arte](#)  
28.03.2025 / Lusa / [Associação lamenta que vendas de obras de arte continuem a ser taxadas com IVA a 23%](#)  
28.03.2025 / Rádio Renascença / [Associação lamenta que vendas de obras de arte continuem a ser taxadas com IVA a 23%](#)  
09.04.2025 / Notícias ao Minuto / [Galeristas recorrem a PM e Finanças sobre taxas do IVA das obras de arte](#)  
10.04.2025 / Público / Artes / [Galeristas recorrem a Montenegro e Finanças para reduzir IVA das obras de arte](#)  
11.04.2025 / RTP Notícias / [Cultura: Galerias de arte passam a pagar 23% de IVA sobre vendas de obras](#)  
12.04.2025 / Público / [Opinião: Galerias com dificuldade em convergir com o pelotão da frente \(Vera Cortês\)](#)  
16.04.2025 / Correio da Manhã / [PS questiona Governo sobre manutenção do IVA de 23% nas vendas de arte por galerias](#)  
16.04.2025 / PS Parlamento / [PS questiona governo sobre IVA de 23% dos galeristas](#)  
19.04.2025 / Polígrafo / [Galerias de arte passaram a pagar IVA mais elevado depois de a ministra da Cultura defender a descida do imposto?](#)  
30.04.2025 / Jornal de Negócios / [Opinião: Divergindo em relação aos maiores mercados de arte na Europa \(Jorge Viegas\)](#)

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