

Portuguese VAT for International Events: How Dixcart Supported an Overseas Organiser A Client Case Study

An overseas event organiser preparing to operate in Portugal faced a practical challenge: obtaining a Portuguese VAT number was only the starting point.

By **Lionel de Freitas**, 20th October 2026

An overseas event organiser preparing to operate in Portugal faced a practical challenge: obtaining a Portuguese VAT number was only the starting point.

Its existing invoicing system also needed to work with Portuguese requirements, while VAT treatment, reporting and payments had to be managed correctly.

Dixcart Portugal helped turn these separate requirements into one workable compliance process, covering VAT registration, invoicing integration, VAT treatment, returns, payments and tax representation. This anonymised case shows what practical support involves beyond the initial paperwork.

With almost 40 years supporting businesses in Portugal, Dixcart combines Portuguese and international accounting expertise. For this client, that meant connecting three important areas: registration, invoicing and ongoing VAT compliance.

The challenge: Operating in Portugal without disrupting existing international systems

The client was a non-resident entity organising an event in Portugal and required Portuguese VAT registration for its activities.

The client also used an online invoicing system, creating a practical need to connect its existing arrangements with Portuguese accounting and compliance requirements.

This meant considering not only how the business should register for VAT, but also how invoices would be issued, the appropriate VAT treatment applied, and ongoing VAT reporting managed.

Dixcart's approach: connecting registration, invoicing and VAT reporting

Dixcart Portugal supported the client with Portuguese VAT registration and the integration of invoices generated through its existing non-Portuguese accounting software with software compatible with Portuguese Tax and Customs Authority (AT) requirements.

Our involvement extended beyond the technical integration. We also supported the client to:

- ensure that invoices met the applicable Portuguese VAT requirements and that the VAT rates were applicable correctly.
- We assist with the preparation and the submission of the VAT tax declarations
- ensured that all invoices from suppliers were deducted as well to reduce they VAT due by the client.

This created a more joined-up process, connecting the client's invoicing arrangements with the Portuguese VAT and reporting requirements needed to support its activities locally.

For many non-resident businesses operating in Portugal, invoicing requirements are an important part of VAT compliance and should therefore be considered alongside VAT registration from the outset.

The Outcome: A workable Portuguese VAT process

The client was able to operate with a Portuguese VAT structure that connected its existing invoicing arrangements with its local reporting obligations. Rather than managing registration, invoicing and VAT returns separately, it had a coordinated process and a single point of contact in Portugal.

What can other international event organisers learn?

The practical lesson is to plan the VAT work before sales begin.

- Review the event contracts
- What will be sold
- Who the customers are and how invoices will be issued
- Agree who will handle the accounting and VAT returns, rather than treating registration as the final task.

Not every overseas event organiser must register for Portuguese VAT; the answer depends on the supplies and customer profile, including the potential application of reverse charge or an eligible One Stop Shop (OSS) reporting route.

Review these questions before assuming that the same registration route applies to another event.

For this client, the work connected registration, invoicing and reporting rather than leaving them as separate tasks. The example illustrates the type of support to consider when an overseas finance team needs Portuguese tax requirements translated into a workable local process.

When VAT is only part of the requirement

For an international business, Portuguese VAT may be one element of a wider local accounting and tax requirement.

Dixcart Portugal's wider services include Portuguese accounts, group reporting, corporate tax compliance and advisory, payroll and liaison with the Portuguese tax authorities. Our service model combines senior-level involvement with a single point of contact across services.

This means an international business can seek support for a specific Portuguese requirement or establish a broader, ongoing accounting and tax relationship, depending on its activities, internal resources and reporting requirements.

Discuss the support your business needs

Whether you are organising an event, entering the Portuguese market or reviewing an existing VAT position, speak to Dixcart Portugal about the practical tax and accounting requirements before activity begins.

An initial discussion can help identify whether a focused VAT review, implementation assistance or wider accounting and tax support is appropriate. Any engagement would have an agreed scope and fees before work begins.

Discuss your Portuguese VAT and accounting requirements

Read the supporting guidance: [Portuguese VAT registration for overseas companies](#) | [Portuguese VAT invoicing and returns](#) | [Portuguese VAT recovery and refunds](#)

Client details have been withheld. This case study describes the support provided on a particular engagement and does not promise the same tax treatment or outcome for another business.