

# WHO PAYS FOR THE MARBLE?



**RESEARCH FINDINGS  
ON THE SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS  
OF VISUAL ARTS PROFESSIONALS  
IN GREECE**



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## INTRODUCTION

The artistic research project *Who Pays for the Marble? Research on the Socioeconomic Conditions of Visual Arts Professionals in Greece* was carried out within the framework of the Onassis AiR programme. It focuses on the material conditions that shape a person's ability to study, work and remain active in the field of the visual arts, recording data on income, housing, workspace, funding for studies, professional activity, health insurance, participation in collective structures, and experiences of exclusion or discrimination.

This publication presents the results of the research, which was completed in three phases. The first, from May to June 2024, focused on the design of the questionnaire. The second, from 4 February to 14 July 2025, covered the circulation of the questionnaire and the collection of responses. The third, from September 2025 to January 2026, was dedicated to processing the data and preparing the results for publication.

The sample is characterised by a high level of education and substantial professional experience. At the same time, the difficulty of making a living through work in the visual arts, the limited scale of the art market, the low level of artist representation by galleries and the scarcity of stable employment in curating exhibitions point to the importance of adequate fees, funding and institutional support, as well as access to housing and workspace. The findings also show that professional continuity often depends on other sources of income and on family support.

The research serves as a public record of the conditions reflected in the responses, without claiming to represent the field as a whole. By publishing the questionnaire results, it aims both to challenge perceptions that treat creativity as detached from its social and economic context and to contribute to the development of proposals for actions that could lead to a more sustainable and inclusive art scene.

## METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The questionnaire was circulated through cultural organisations, schools of fine arts, professional associations, artistic networks and media outlets, in order to reach the widest possible audience. It was completed anonymously by 282 people.

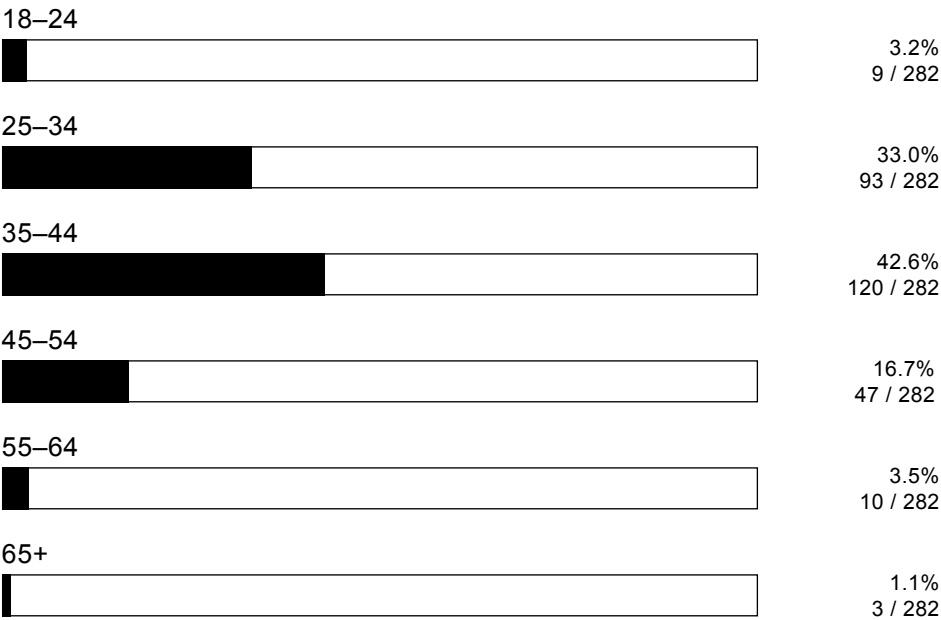
This publication presents the distribution of responses to the questionnaire's mandatory closed-ended questions. The total number of responses is indicated below each question, while each answer option is accompanied by the percentage and number of respondents who selected it. In addition to the general section, the questionnaire is organised into separate sections based on respondents' primary professional activity.

Percentages are rounded to one decimal place. As a result, in single-choice questions, totals may not add up to exactly 100%. For multiple-choice questions, the figures shown indicate the percentage and number of respondents who selected each option. In these cases, totals may exceed 100%.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

What is your age?

282 responses



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

What is your gender?

282 responses

Man



30.1%  
85 / 282

Woman



63.8%  
180 / 282

Non-binary



2.8%  
8 / 282

Prefer not to answer

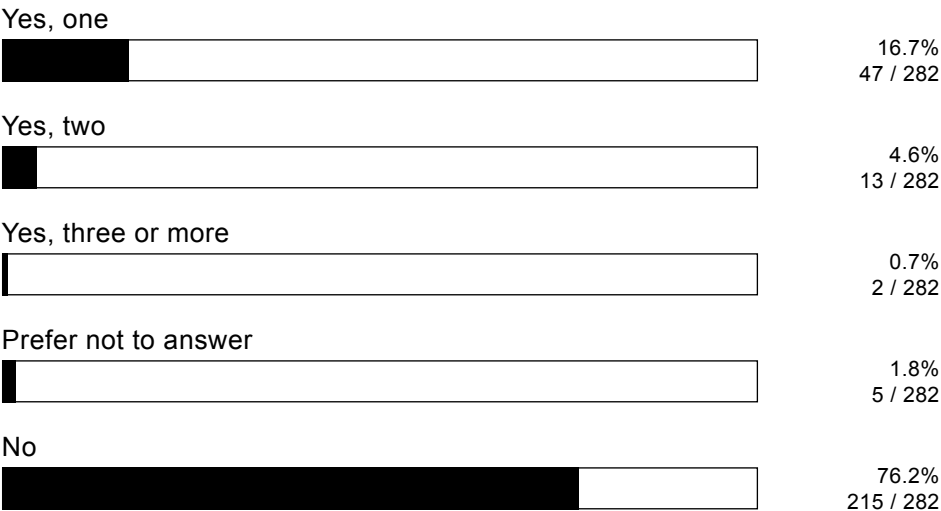


3.2%  
9 / 282

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Do you have any dependent family members?

282 responses



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Do you have a disability?

282 responses

Yes



5.0%  
14 / 282

No



93.3%  
263 / 282

Prefer not to answer

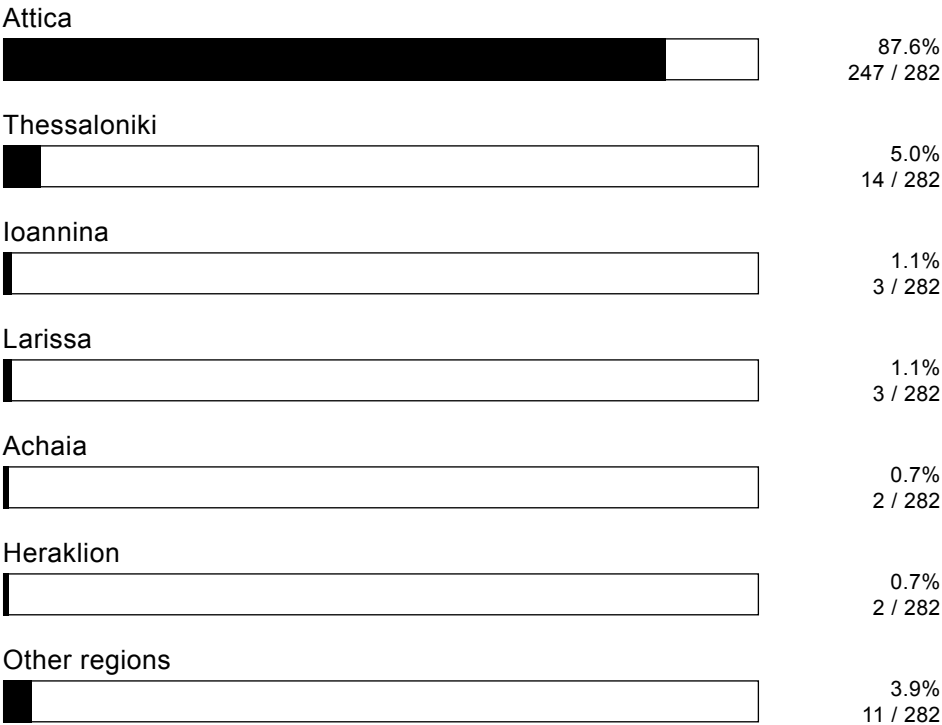


1.8%  
5 / 282

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Which region do you live in?

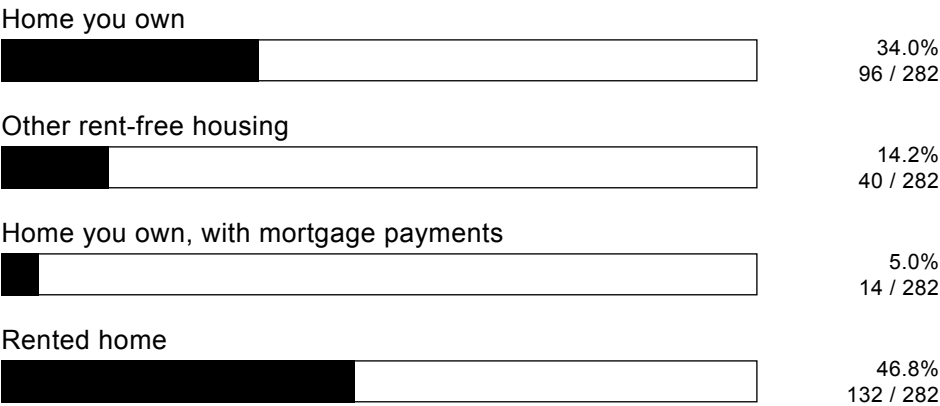
282 responses



HOUSING

Which of the following best describes your current housing situation?

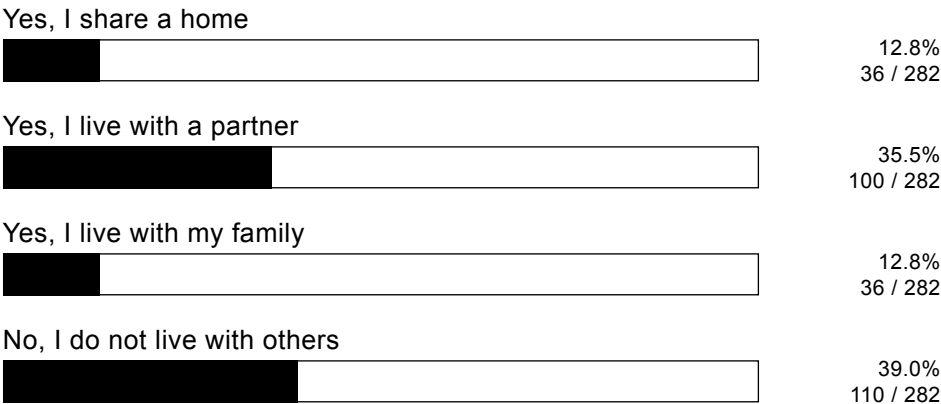
282 responses



HOUSING

Do you live with others?

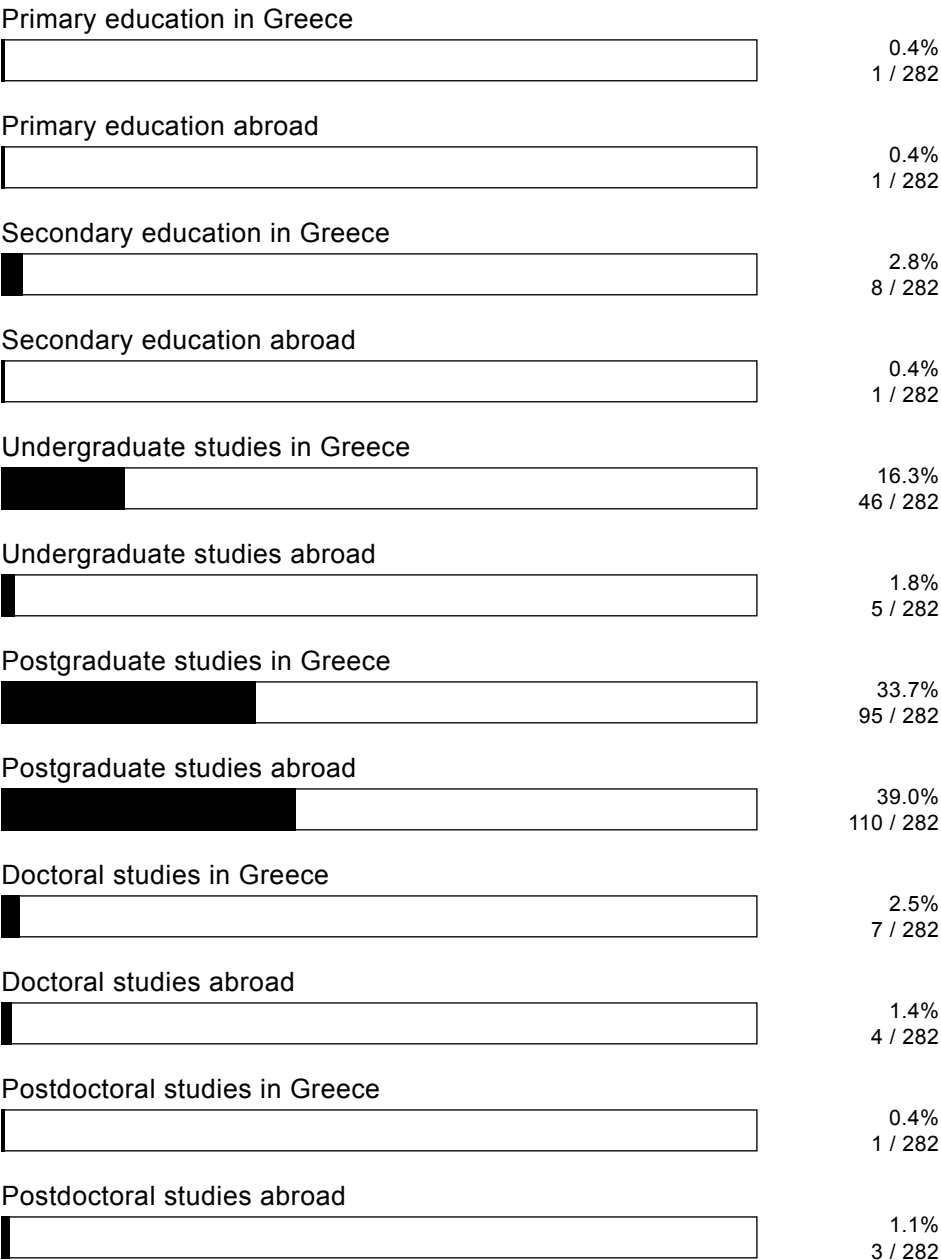
282 responses



EDUCATION

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

282 responses



STUDY FUNDING

What were the main sources of funding for your postdoctoral studies?

4 responses

Multiple choice, up to 3 answers



STUDY FUNDING

What were the main sources of funding for your doctoral studies?

15 responses

Multiple choice, up to 3 answers

Part-time work



53.3%  
8 / 15

Full-time work



40.0%  
6 / 15

Family support



60.0%  
9 / 15

Scholarship from a Greek organisation



46.7%  
7 / 15

Scholarship from an organisation abroad



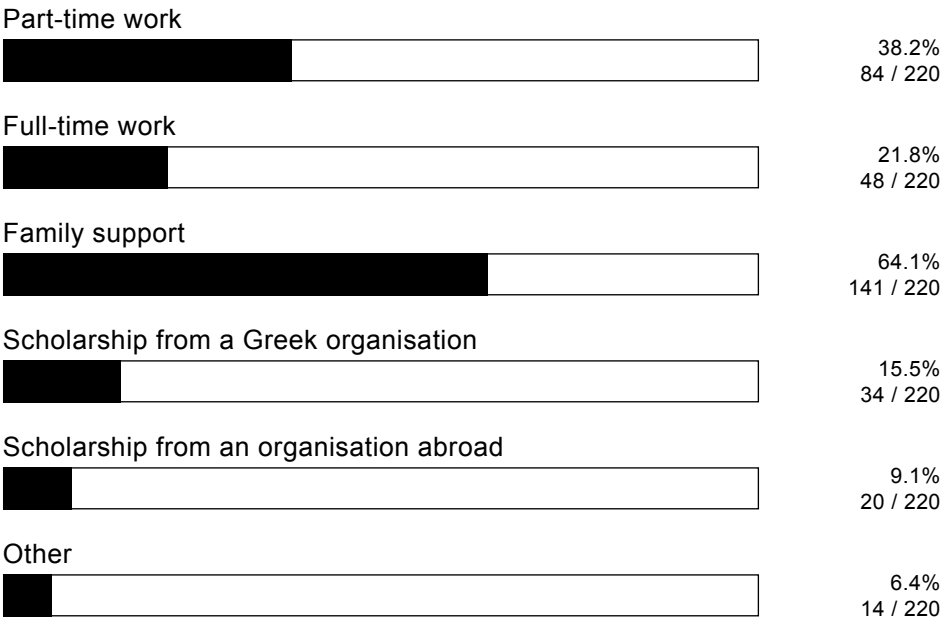
6.7%  
1 / 15

STUDY FUNDING

What were the main sources of funding for your postgraduate studies?

220 responses

Multiple choice, up to 3 answers

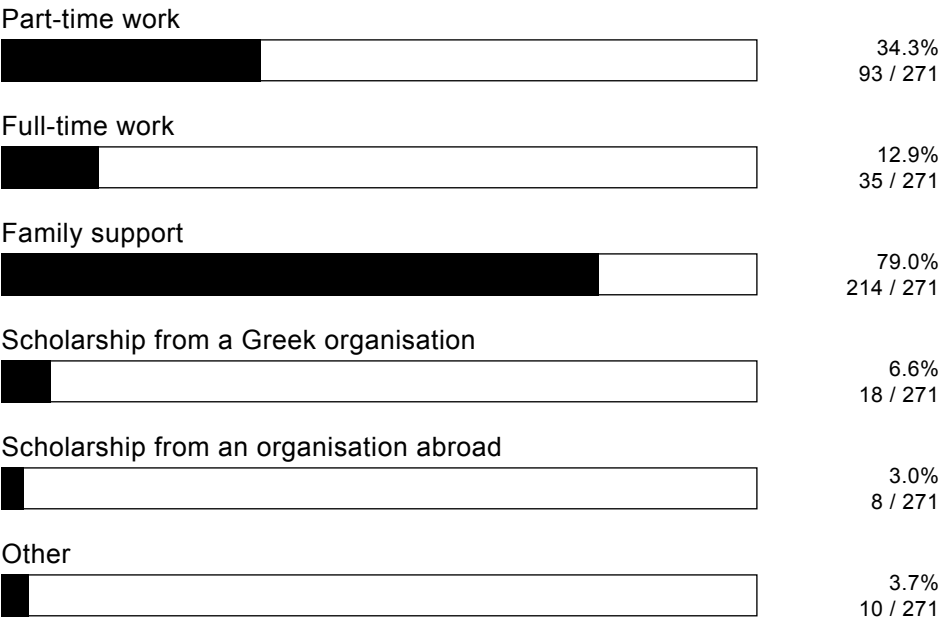


STUDY FUNDING

What were the main sources of funding for your undergraduate studies?

271 responses

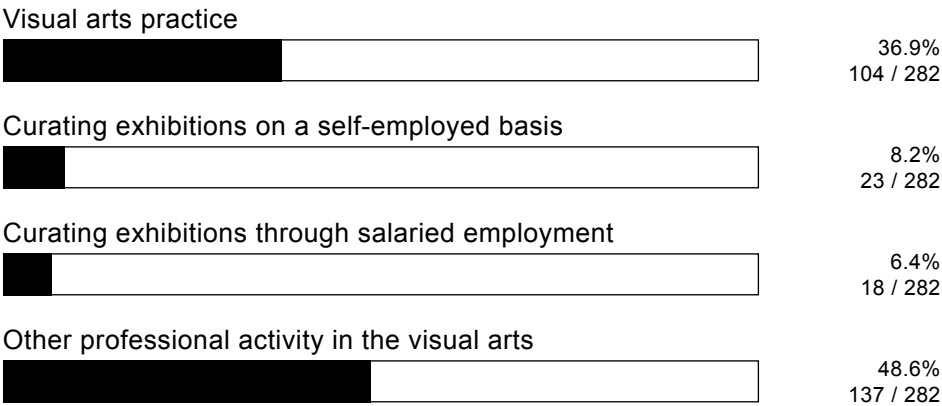
Multiple choice, up to 3 answers



PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

What is your primary professional activity?

282 responses



PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

How many years have you been working in the visual arts?

282 responses



PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Have you completed studies related to the visual arts?

282 responses

Yes



85.1%  
240 / 282

No



14.9%  
42 / 282

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

What is your primary professional activity?

282 responses

Visual arts practice



36.9%  
104 / 282

Curating exhibitions on a self-employed basis



8.2%  
23 / 282

Curating exhibitions through salaried employment



6.4%  
18 / 282

Other professional activity in the visual arts



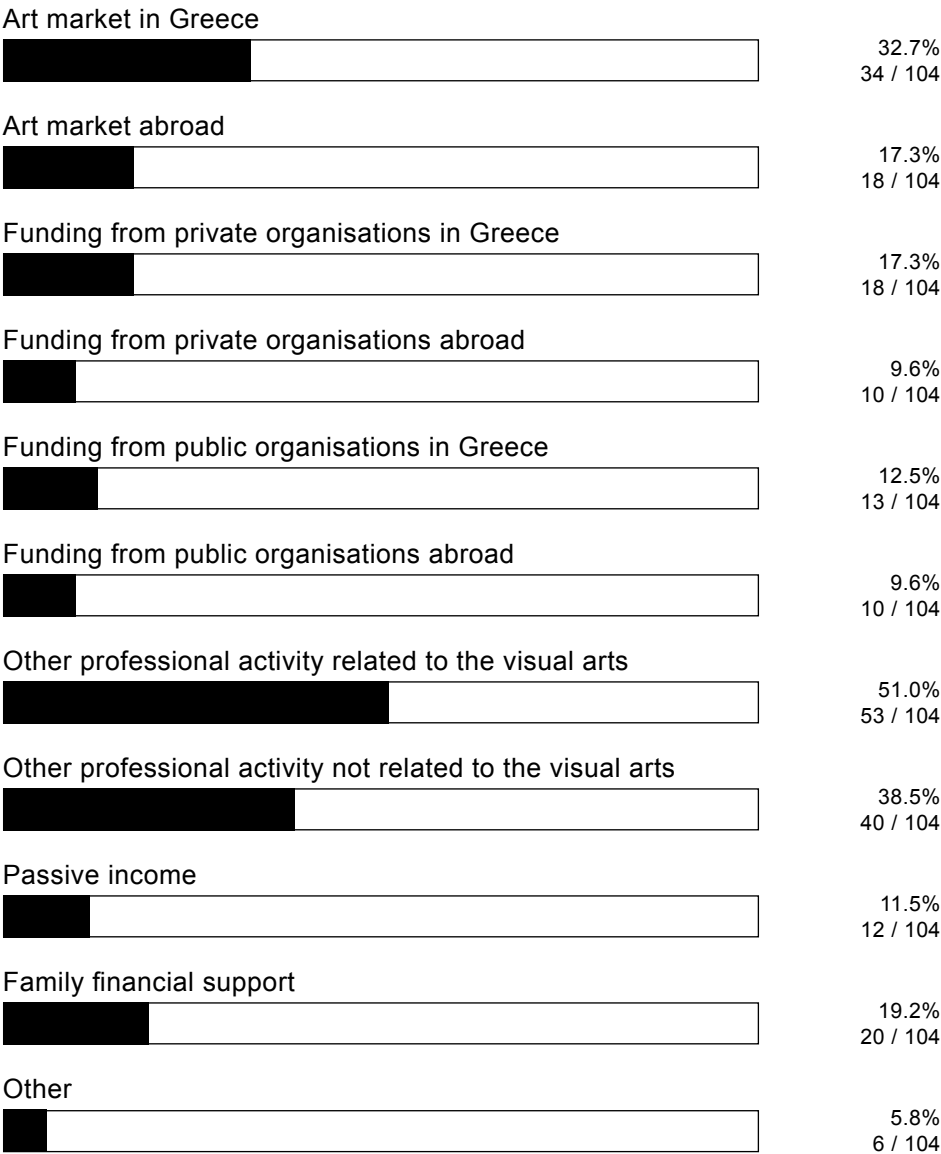
48.6%  
137 / 282

VISUAL ARTS PRACTICE

What are your main sources of income?

104 responses

Multiple choice, up to 4 answers



What is your average total annual net income?

104 responses

0–5,000 euros



17.3%  
18 / 104

5,001–10,000 euros



36.5%  
38 / 104

10,001–20,000 euros



34.6%  
36 / 104

20,001–30,000 euros



6.7%  
7 / 104

30,001 euros and above

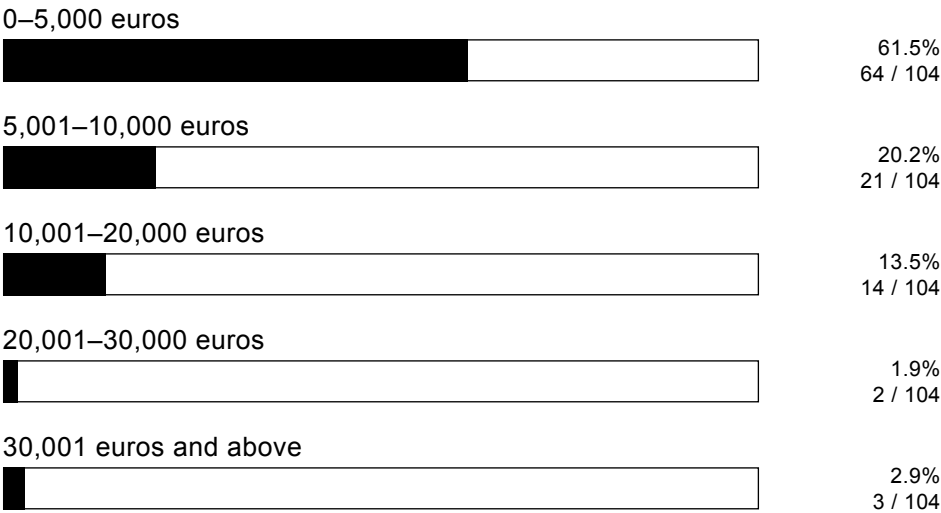


4.8%  
5 / 104

VISUAL ARTS PRACTICE

What is your average annual net income from your visual arts practice?

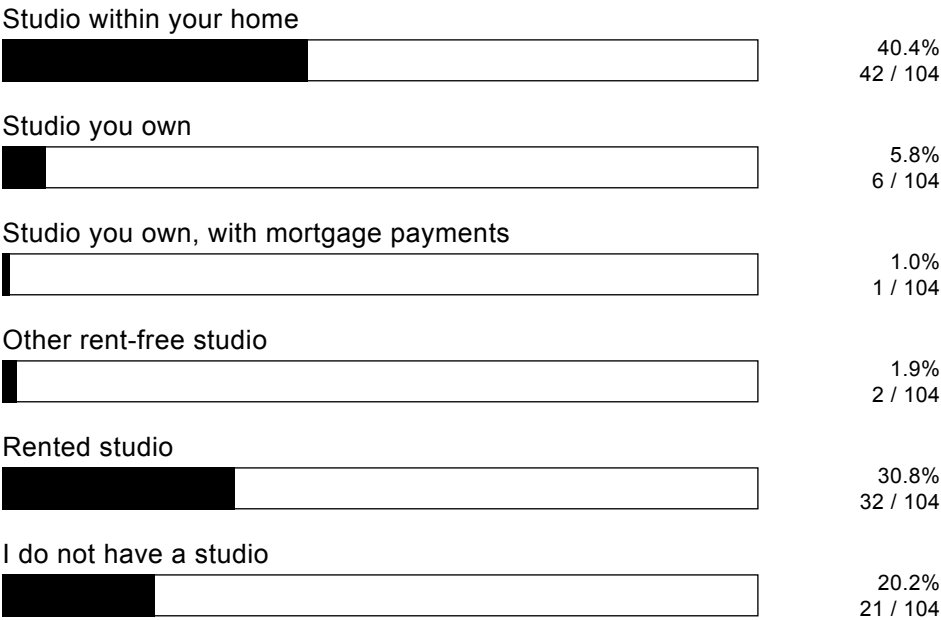
104 responses



VISUAL ARTS PRACTICE

Which of the following best describes the space where you carry out your visual arts practice?

104 responses



Is your work represented by a contemporary art gallery?

104 responses

Multiple choice, up to 2 answers

Yes, by a gallery in Greece



22.1%  
23 / 104

Yes, by a gallery abroad



6.7%  
7 / 104

No



76.0%  
79 / 104

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

What is your primary professional activity?

282 responses

Visual arts practice



36.9%  
104 / 282

Curating exhibitions on a self-employed basis



8.2%  
23 / 282

Curating exhibitions through salaried employment



6.4%  
18 / 282

Other professional activity in the visual arts



48.6%  
137 / 282

CURATING EXHIBITIONS ON A SELF-EMPLOYED BASIS

What are your main sources of income?

23 responses

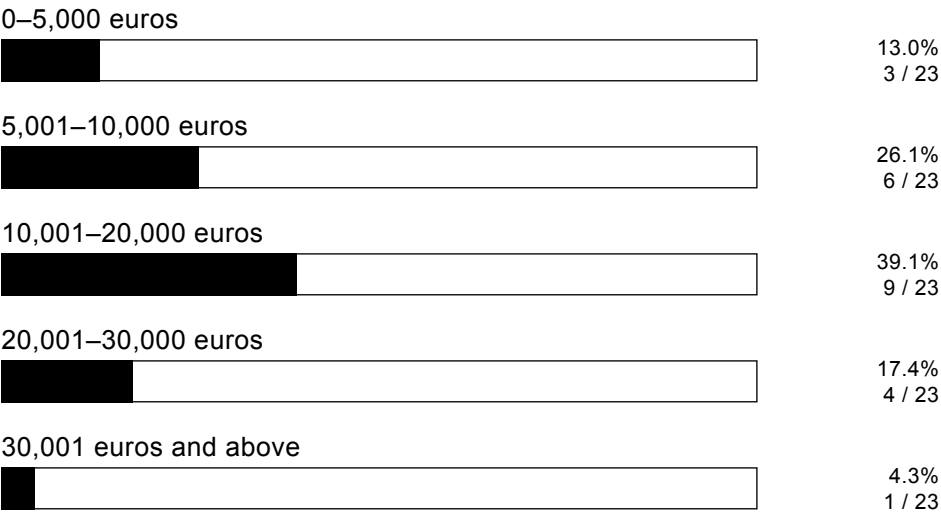
Multiple choice, up to 4 answers



CURATING EXHIBITIONS ON A SELF-EMPLOYED BASIS

What is your average total annual net income?

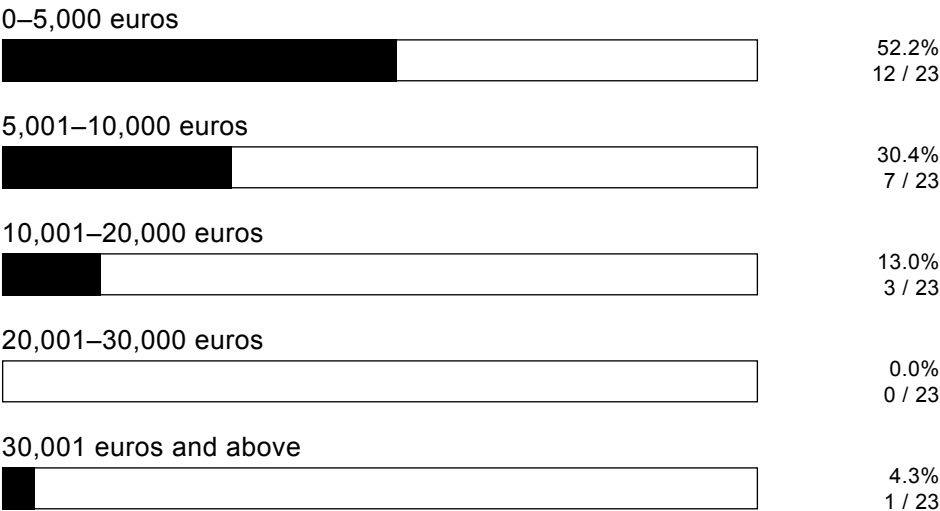
23 responses



CURATING EXHIBITIONS ON A SELF-EMPLOYED BASIS

What is your average annual net income from curating exhibitions on a self-employed basis?

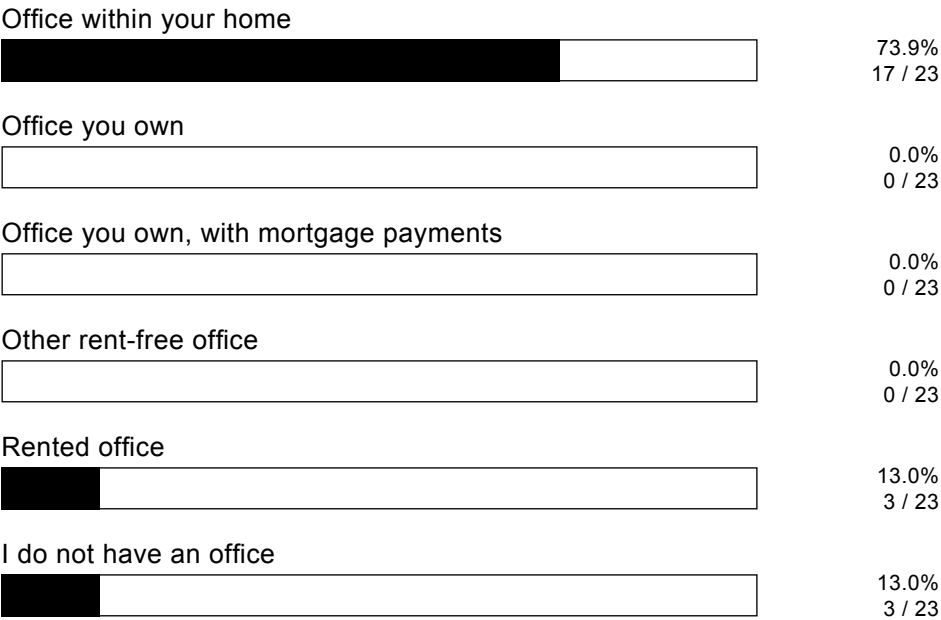
23 responses



CURATING EXHIBITIONS ON A SELF-EMPLOYED BASIS

Which of the following best describes the space where you carry out your self-employed curatorial work?

23 responses



CURATING EXHIBITIONS ON A SELF-EMPLOYED BASIS

**Would you be interested in working exclusively in curating exhibitions through salaried employment?**

23 responses

Yes, in either a public or a private organisation



95.7%  
22 / 23

Yes, in a public organisation



0.0%  
0 / 23

Yes, in a private organisation



4.3%  
1 / 23

No



0.0%  
0 / 23

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

What is your primary professional activity?

282 responses

Visual arts practice



36.9%  
104 / 282

Curating exhibitions on a self-employed basis



8.2%  
23 / 282

Curating exhibitions through salaried employment



6.4%  
18 / 282

Other professional activity in the visual arts

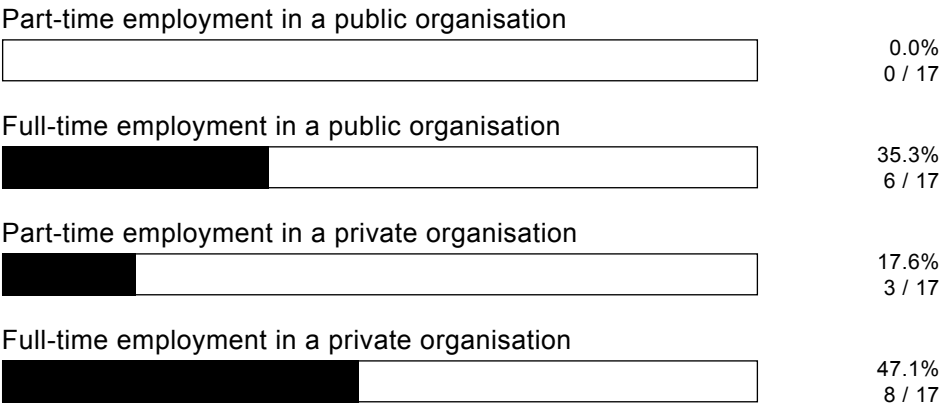


48.6%  
137 / 282

CURATING EXHIBITIONS THROUGH SALARIED EMPLOYMENT

Your employment is:

18 responses, 17 valid. One non-applicable response excluded



CURATING EXHIBITIONS THROUGH SALARIED EMPLOYMENT

What is your average total annual net income?

18 responses

0–5,000 euros



5.6%  
1 / 18

5,001–10,000 euros



0.0%  
0 / 18

10,001–20,000 euros



72.2%  
13 / 18

20,001–30,000 euros



22.2%  
4 / 18

30,001 euros and above

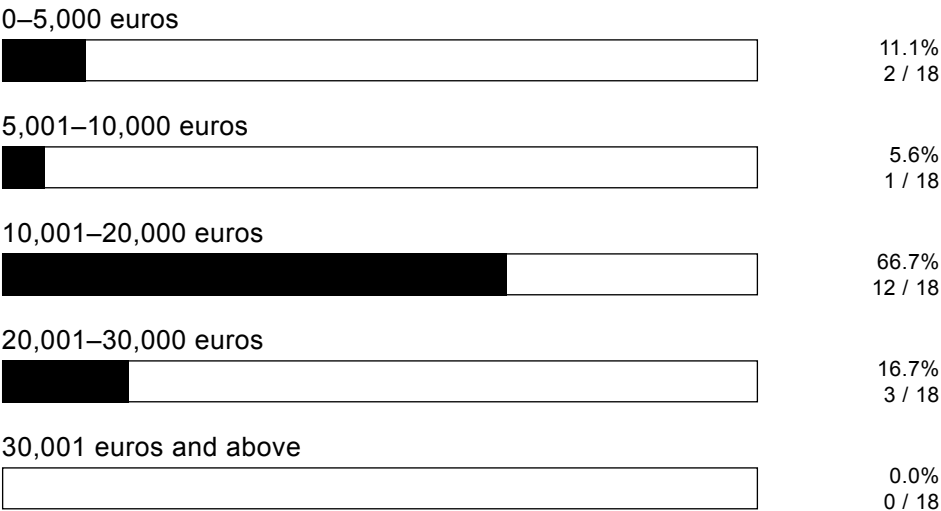


0.0%  
0 / 18

CURATING EXHIBITIONS THROUGH SALARIED EMPLOYMENT

What is your average annual net income from curating exhibitions through salaried employment?

18 responses



CURATING EXHIBITIONS THROUGH SALARIED EMPLOYMENT

**Do you curate exhibitions alongside your salaried employment?**

18 responses

Yes



61.1%  
11 / 18

No



38.9%  
7 / 18

CURATING EXHIBITIONS THROUGH SALARIED EMPLOYMENT

**Would you be interested in working exclusively in curating exhibitions on a self-employed basis?**

18 responses

Yes



66.7%  
12 / 18

No



33.3%  
6 / 18

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

What is your primary professional activity?

282 responses

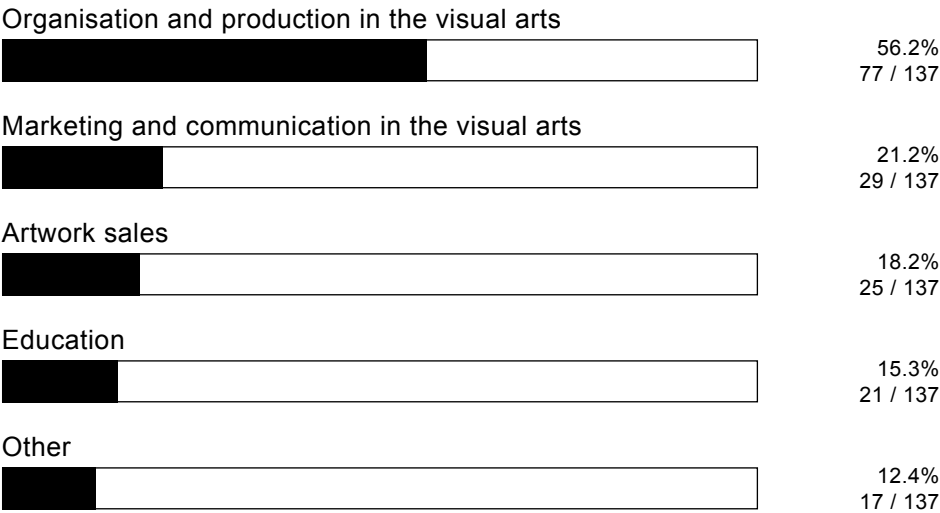


OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY IN THE VISUAL ARTS

What is your field or fields of work?

137 responses

Multiple choice, up to 4 answers



OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY IN THE VISUAL ARTS

What is your average total annual net income?

137 responses

0–5,000 euros



16.1%  
22 / 137

5,001–10,000 euros



28.5%  
39 / 137

10,001–20,000 euros



27.0%  
37 / 137

20,001–30,000 euros



21.2%  
29 / 137

30,001 euros and above

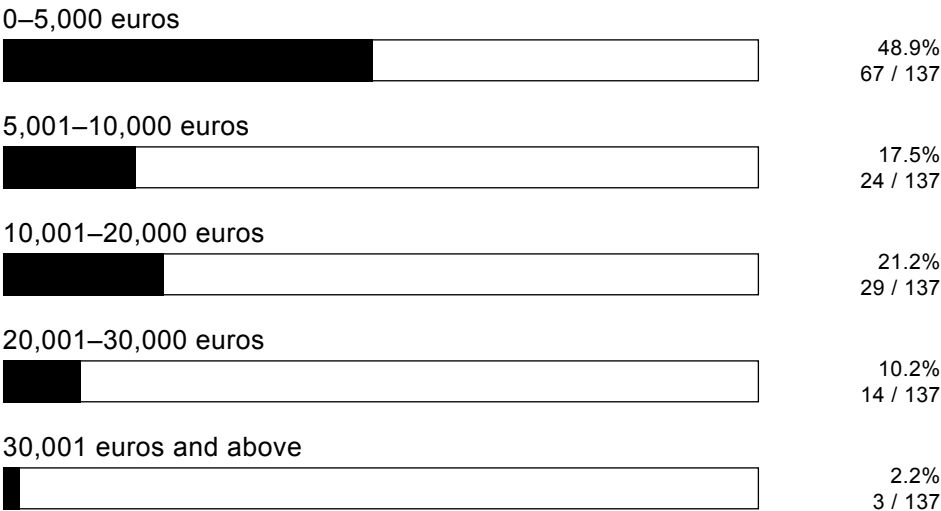


7.3%  
10 / 137

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY IN THE VISUAL ARTS

What is your average annual net income from your professional activity in the visual arts?

137 responses



OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY IN THE VISUAL ARTS

Would you be interested in working in a different area of the visual arts?

137 responses

Yes, visual arts practice



35.8%  
49 / 137

Yes, curating exhibitions on a self-employed basis



11.7%  
16 / 137

Yes, curating exhibitions through salaried employment



13.1%  
18 / 137

No



36.5%  
50 / 137

Other



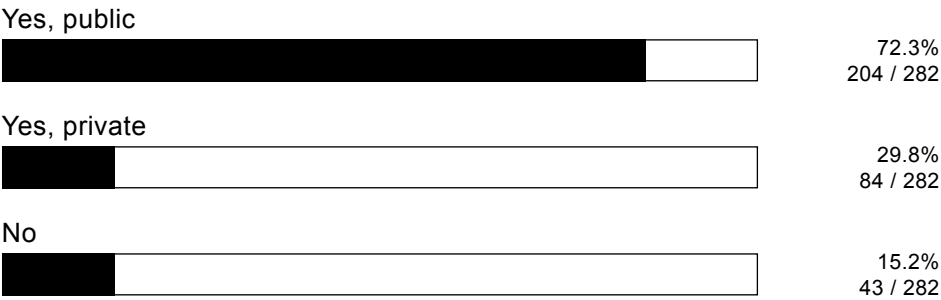
2.9%  
4 / 137

HEALTH INSURANCE

Do you have health insurance?

282 responses

Multiple choice, up to 2 answers



NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

**Are you a member of a non-profit organisation in Greece active in the field of the visual arts?**

282 responses

Yes



17.7%  
50 / 282

No



82.3%  
232 / 282

NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

Is the non-profit organisation financially sustainable?

50 responses

Yes



44.0%  
22 / 50

No



56.0%  
28 / 50

WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS

Are you a member of a workers' organisation?

282 responses

Multiple choice, up to 2 answers

Chamber of Fine Arts of Greece



31.2%  
88 / 282

The Union of Workers in Contemporary Art (SEST)



20.6%  
58 / 282

No



51.1%  
144 / 282

Other



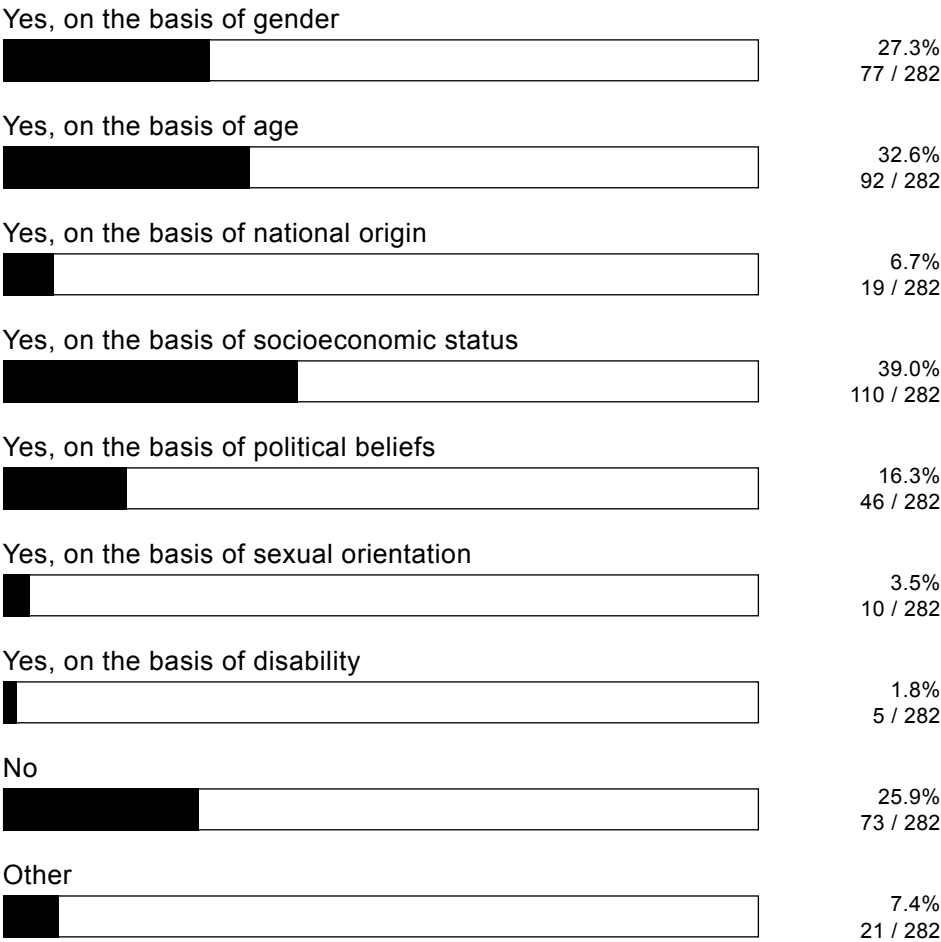
8.5%  
24 / 282

EXCLUSION AND DISCRIMINATION

Have you ever experienced exclusion or discrimination within the art field?

282 responses

Multiple choice, up to 8 answers



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**Research on the Socioeconomic Conditions**  
**of Visual Arts Professionals in Greece**

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[www.whopaysforthemarble.com](http://www.whopaysforthemarble.com)



