The Donegal Women in Business Network will host its first cross-border networking event with Derry based Women in Enterprise in the first event of its Autumn schedule. Donegal native, Michelle O'Donnell, of Glasshammer Design is also a keynote speaker at the event which takes place on Tuesday 14th September in An Grianan Hotel, Burt. The event will provide an opportunity for members from both organisations to meet for the first time and to promote their businesses.

Guest speaker Michelle O'Donnell is originally from Convoy, but now based in County Offaly. She is an artist and sculptor who has worked extensively for public and private glass art commissions. Her clients include Shell Oil, Glaxo Smith Kline, the Office of Public Works, the Department of Finance, Compaq Computers, Accenture and Green Properties. Her work is highly regarded both at home and abroad and she has shown her work in private collections all over the world including the Antwerp National Bank, the Glen Dimplex Private Collection and the Smurfit Private Collection.

"For small firms the majority of new business is generated through networking and word-of-mouth referrals," according to Annmarie Doherty, President of the Donegal Women in Business Network. "This event provides a great chance for business women on both sides of the border to meet, learn about each others' businesses and maybe identify some opportunities".

The Donegal Women in Business Network supports all women in the county who work in a business, run their own business or who are thinking of starting a new business. The Network was created in 1999 when an open meeting attracted more than 50 women. Since then the Women in Business Network has been supported by Donegal County Enterprise Board and membership has grown to over 90. Membership is open to women working in all business sectors and includes Finance, Marketing, Retail, Health & Beauty, Design and Tourism. Other upcoming events include 'Looking the Business, Feeling the Business' with Jeanette Kelly of JK Image Consulting in October, 'Presentation Skills' with Conor Crossan from Donegal Toast Masters in November and a post-Budget breakfast in December.

To attend the first cross-border networking event on 14th September, or for further information about joining the Donegal Women in Business Network, please contact Celine Carroll, Network Secretary, on 074 9160735 or email ccarroll@donegalenterprise.ie .

The fee to attend the event is €10 for members and €15 for non-members.

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