



AIB announces a new programme to back Women in Enterprise

6th October 2017

AIB has announced a new programme to back Women in Enterprise. It will provide tools, support and guidance to help meet the specific challenges facing female-led businesses.

Robert Mulhall, Managing Director, Retail and Commercial Banking said:

“AIB is fully committed to being a bank where existing and future female business owners feel they can and want to do business. We want to support and encourage female entrepreneurship and women in business every step of the way, with access to educational expertise, mentoring, peer support and funding. We have put this programme in place to do that and to back our customers’ when it comes to starting and growing their own business.”

Research shows that one of the biggest asks from women business owners is accessing tools, skills and guidance to grow and scale their businesses. **AIB Women in Enterprise Masterclasses** will take place across Ireland and will be open to female business owners. These will be half-day sessions covering modules on leadership, Growth Mind-set, business ambition and clarity as well as leading and equipping others. Each Masterclass will be provided by expert business practitioners.

In addition, **AIB Women in Enterprise Growth Academies** will provide an intensive deep-dive programme (6 days over 5 months) for women business owners. The Academies will focus in detail on driving growth through digital, sales and marketing, financial planning, becoming investor ready as well as leadership and innovation.

AIB is fully committed to supporting current and prospective business women with financial support and is launching a €100m Senior Loan Fund directed at Women in Enterprise. It is available on AIB's normal terms and conditions and AIB will measure the loan funds take up to ensure AIB are fully supporting this growing market.

AIB recently launched a €3m Discovery Programme within the Frontline Ventures II €60m equity fund. This programme will support the first step in a technology entrepreneur’s journey to fund the concept stage of developing their business. There is potential for 15 investments of up to €200,000 each. AIB, working with Frontline Ventures, is encouraging Women in Enterprise within the AIB Discovery Programme to access this funding. This will be supported by specific Women in Enterprise clinics to help them access this equity.

Further information is available at www.aib.ie/womeninenterprise, from any AIB branch or on the phone at 1890 47 88 33. People interested in registering can email womeninenterprise@aib.ie (Contact details will be shared with our Education Partner The Entrepreneurs Academy).

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