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Award win for South Tipp female entrepreneur

Seven women-led businesses, including one company representing Tipperary South, have won top honours at the South East Female Excellence in Business Awards.

Organised by the County and City Enterprise Boards, the awards were set up two years ago to help recognise the achievements of local female entrepreneurs and to help boost the numbers of women setting up their own businesses.

Nina Kati of Working Wonders, representing Tipperary South, was presented with the 'Excellence in Professional and Personal Services Award' at the South East Women in Business Conference at the Tower Hotel in Waterford.

In the other categories, Marie Byrne and Susan Alsbury from the MarieSue lingerie Boutique in Carlow won the 'Excellence in Retailing Award' and Rita Tobin from a web development company in Carlow, t2, scooped the 'Excellence in ICT Award'.

Yvonne Crotty and Ger McDonald from Bonzie Designs in Waterford, a fashion design label, took the 'Excellence in Craft/Manufacturing Award'.

The 'Excellence in Marketing Award' was won by Lucy Medlycott from Bui Bolg in Wexford, a spectacle and street theatre company and the 'Excellence in Food and Tourism Award' went to Sarah and Eilis Cough from Mileeven Fine Foods in Kilkenny.

Mag Kirwan from Goatsbridge Rainbow Trout Farm in Kilkenny collected the 'Female Entrepreneur of the Year' prize and the runner-up prize went to Regina Mangan from BookaRoom.ie property service in Waterford City.

Congratulating the winners at the ceremony, Ita Horan of Tipperary South County Enterprise Board said: "The judges were looking for evidence of innovation, sound business planning and effective management practices. This year's winners and nominees from South Tipperary are to be applauded for clearly demonstrating an ability to plan, diversify and innovate, according to the challenges they face within their own business sectors."

The seven winners were selected from a shortlist of twenty-five enterprising women from all over the South East, representing Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Wexford and Waterford.