



**Credit Union Conference  
Dublin, 20 May 2022**

**The Green Lending Opportunity:  
Report on Proceedings**

***SWOBODA RESEARCH CENTRE***

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## I Introduction

This report is a summary of the presentations and panel discussions from the Swoboda Research Centre Annual Conference held on 20 May 2022 in Dublin.

Themed *The Green Lending Opportunity*, the event looked at how credit unions could support the transition to environmental sustainability.

The event brought together credit union practitioners from Ireland and Britain to discuss future lending opportunities for the sector, as communities come together to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Speakers included Minister of State, Seán Fleming, who offered his reflections on legislative change for credit unions, and the role of credit unions in supporting the Irish Government's green agenda.

## II Welcome and introductions

Dr Paul A. Jones, Director of Research at Swoboda and Reader in the Social Economy at Liverpool John Moores University

Paul welcomed delegates, thanking the Centre's credit union and corporate members (listed on p9) for their ongoing support. He also explained that since the last conference, the Centre (formerly the Centre for Community Finance Europe) had renamed itself the Swoboda Research Centre after the late CFCFE Chair, Ralph Swoboda, who sadly passed away in September 2021.

Paul set the stage for discussion by defining green lending as a form of financing projects, individuals and businesses that contribute to environmental sustainability.

Participants were then asked to assess the green lending opportunity for credit unions by voting in an online poll, with two thirds assessing it as "big" and 14% as "massive", with no votes for "close to zero".

A second question asked participants to estimate when the green lending opportunity would likely take off, with the majority selecting "over 18 months" as the expected timeframe.

Paul highlighted that some credit unions were already responding to the challenge, including CUDA (Ireland), which is offering pro energy loans, and the Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU), which provides greener homes loans.

## III Keynotes: setting the context

**National Residential Retrofit Programmes**, Josephine Maguire, Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI)

Josephine described the Irish government's long-term plan to retrofit 500,000 homes and install 600,000 heat pumps by 2030, as part of an £8bn residential retrofit plan. SEAI aims to raise awareness about the plan and is keen to see credit unions partner with one-stop shops that would manage all stages of the retrofitting projects to make it easier for people to obtain the support they need. SEAI is helping to set up such one-stop shop entities and estimates 30 will be in existence by the end of the year.

Josephine explained that people choose to invest if they consider retrofitting to be affordable and likely to reduce their bills. Meanwhile, those choosing not to invest say this is because it is expensive, and they lack funding. She argued that credit unions had the answers to these

issues and said that the majority of respondents taking part in a SEAI survey selected credit unions as their go-to lender for retrofitting.

Interest rates are another top issue people take into account when taking retrofit loans, along with the ease of application, loan flexibility and pay-back period. She said credit unions were well suited to meet these needs.

She encouraged credit unions to raise awareness about the retrofitting agenda via demand generation campaigns. She sees a potential for credit unions to act as loan providers for workers doing the retrofitting and small and medium enterprises doing work in this area.

## **The Citizen Shift: Re-Imagining the Purpose of Credit Unions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Billy Doyle, Dundalk Credit Union (Ireland)**

Billy looked at why the green agenda should be viewed as a natural fit for the credit union sector, exploring the concept of organisational purpose in the credit union context.

He argued that organisations with a clear sense of purpose are more successful, enduring and sustainable and called on credit unions to focus on their purpose. This, he said, would give credit unions the edge over competitors, helping them to differentiate through their co-operative values.

Dundalk Credit Union recently re-examined its purpose and placed it at the heart of its 2025 strategic plan, which sets out a series of tangible actions.

Billy explained how having a purpose could create a strong emotional value proposition and drive membership in credit unions. He argued that as businesses rooted in the community, credit unions could position themselves as a “genuine, authentic alternative” tapping into the citizenship dynamic post Covid-19 and in the context of climate change.

He concluded by saying that credit unions that choose to review their purpose and strategic position could make a meaningful contribution to a better, more sustainable future.

## **IV A Strategic Approach to Green Lending**

### **Galvanising the Community, David McDonnell, Naomh Breandán Credit Union (Ireland)**

David talked about his credit union, which since being set up in 1966 has established itself as an institution of a Galway area, with 16,500 members, an 83% penetration rate and total assets of €65.5m.

To support its community objectives, in 2018 the credit union worked with SEAI to set up Sustainable Energy West (SEW), a group of likeminded people interested in sustainable living.

SEW initiatives included:

- Tracking energy efficiency and sustainable transport in their common bond area.
- Developing an energy master plan of the credit union’s full common bond area via an SEAI grant of €20,000.
- Involving Transition Year students from two local colleges in measuring the quality of air within and outside school grounds and non-traffic areas near schools.

## **A Strategic Approach to Green Lending ... or not? Catherine Davenport, Capital Credit Union (Scotland)**

Catherine described Capital Credit Union's strategic approach to green lending as well as some of its recent innovations. Based in the city centre of Edinburgh, Capital Credit Union has recently introduced a series of changes to better meet its members' needs, including launching an online chat and app to support members without them having to travel to the branch and enabling new members to join the credit union online or via the app using a photo ID. Staff members are offered flexible work time and zero interest loans.

The credit union provides a range of green loans, which can be used by members to insulate homes, install heat pumps or solar panels, upgrade boilers or buy electric cars, among others. A tree is also planted for every green loan taken by members in an attempt to regenerate the Scottish Highlands.

Catherine mentioned some of the challenges faced by her credit union when trying to promote green loans, such as: the current cost of living crisis, economic uncertainty, and the difficulty of trying to present members solutions not only for present problems, but also for those they might encounter in the future.

### **Making It Work: presenter panel Q&A, facilitated by Paul Jones**

The issues raised included:

- As community-based financial providers, credit unions can facilitate knowledge sharing around green projects.
- There is a strong willingness from people to be involved in making a positive contribution to the environment.
- Nobody is in a better position to lead on green lending than credit unions but for this they need clarity and coherence over their positioning and purpose to differentiate themselves from other competitors - this might incentivise people who are not members to join.
- Credit unions could work with non-financial co-operatives to lead the next wave of disruptions in the areas of sustainability, making the most of the sixth co-operative principle - co-operation among co-operatives.
- There is an opportunity for credit unions to collaborate, adopting common messages and brands to raise awareness about the distinct business model.

## **V The Credit Union Contribution**

**Seán Fleming, Minister of State at the Department of Finance, dealing with Insurance, Credit unions and International Financial Services**

The Minister thanked the Swoboda Research Centre for organising his visit to Manchester earlier in the year, where he met with representatives from British credit unions. He praised the sector for providing green lending alternatives for communities across the country, mentioning the ProEnergy Homes Scheme run by the Credit Union Development Association (CUDA) and CU Greener Homes run by the Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU).

He also offered some suggestions to credit unions, arguing that:

- Credit unions would benefit from addressing fragmentation within the sector by marketing under one umbrella with a single message, particularly when lending for retrofitting.
- Irish credit unions have just €27 out on loan for every €100 of assets – the amount should be double.
- Credit unions should not regard other credit unions as competition and strive to increase collaboration within the sector.
- New legislation is being drafted to support collaboration and a greater range of products and services.

The Minister also mentioned recent legislation that might affect credit unions, namely:

- The recently enacted Consumer Protection (Regulation of Retail Credit and Credit Servicing Firms) Act provides that any firm which offers credit, hire purchase or consumer hire agreements to consumers and other relevant persons will, unless already subject to a Central Bank authorisation requirement, be required to be authorised as a 'retail credit firm' by the Central Bank. This has allowed the Central Bank to apply its Consumer Protection Code, and which contains requirements on firms to assess the suitability and affordability of credit for consumers, to previously unauthorised entities which provide such agreements
- The Consumer Credit (Amendment) Bill 2022, which will restrict rates charged by moneylenders, allowing the Minister of Finance to set a maximum interest rate at which a moneylending loan can be provided. Under separate legislation proposed as part of the Review of Policy Framework, credit unions will also be allowed to charge consumers an interest rate of 2% per month on their personal loans, from 1% currently.

## VI Green Lending to Business

Introducing the next session, Nick Money, Director of Development at Swoboda, explained that green lending can incentivise members to choose sustainable options, mentioning the European Union's [Green Asset Ratio](#), a new reporting instrument to determine which financial institutions are taking green lending seriously.

### **Greenify: Credit Union Collaboration in Action**, Finbarr O'Shea, Bantry Credit Union and Cultivate (Ireland)

Finbarr encouraged delegates to be over-ambitious and aspire to be the principal provider for green finance in their community. He described the work of Cultivate (now incorporated as Collaborative Finance), a joint brand used by 47 credit unions with 150 offices spread across 23 counties to provide short to medium term loans to their farming members. In 2021 the average Cultivate loan was €28,000. Cultivate loans accounted for 25% of the loans issued by Bantry Credit Union. A key objective is reaching into territories where there is no tradition of taking loans from credit unions.

Several of the Collaborative Finance credit unions were now offering the 'Greenify' home improvement loan product, with a partner group including relevant contractors, housing bodies and schools. Finbarr said that it was important for one-stop shop offerings to have a local dimension and added that credit unions could compete and win by being authentic. He also emphasised the importance of collaboration for delivering products and services as well as build credibility and trust.

## **Opportunities from FinTech, Andrea Reynolds, Swoop**

The CEO and co-founder of FinTech business SWOOP, Andrea talked about the impact technology is having on the financial services.

She said that SWOOP's mission was to make it easier for businesses to transact with providers such as credit unions. With access to finance being a key challenge for businesses, including those looking to grow or become more sustainable, SWOOP is trying to make it easier for SMEs to secure funding by matching them with financial providers. It does so by pooling data and generating capital reports to highlight credit health and loan eligibility.

## **SBCI Funding Supports, Seán Farrell, SBCI**

Seán described the work of the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI), which was set up in 2014 to make low-cost credit available to Irish SMEs. The corporation provides credit guarantee schemes to facilitate lending to SMEs.

Credit unions are seen as key partners.

Referring to SBCI's achievements to date, Seán made several key points:

- Since being founded, SBCI has facilitated €2.8bn of funding for SMEs, €1.2bn in the form of liquidity, €1.6bn in terms of guarantees, including via its Covid-19 guarantee scheme. In 2021 alone, SBCI provided €800m in loans, €150m in liquidity, and €650m of guarantees.
- The Covid-19 guarantee scheme offers a partial government guarantee (80%) to participating financial providers against losses on qualifying finance agreements to eligible SMEs.
- Since being set up, SBCI has supported 46,000 SMEs.

SBCI also developed several initiatives to boost green lending, including:

- An SME energy efficiency loan scheme to support businesses to invest in energy efficient assets that will enable them to save on energy costs.
- A low-cost finance scheme for homeowners and landlords to invest in retrofitting buildings – Seán thinks credit unions could be key partners in this.

## **Making It Work: presenter panel Q&A, facilitated by Nick Money**

After the presentations, the speakers took questions from the audience. Several points were made during the discussion:

- One of the advantages of collaboration is achieving an economy of scale whilst retaining the local identity and knowledge.
- Using customers' data, SWOOP can identify heavy energy usage and suggest that SMEs switch to renewable energy providers.
- The SBCI Covid-19 credit guarantee scheme can act as a kick-starter - it helped Synergy Credit Union in Fermoy, Ireland, deal with businesses they would not have normally dealt with and establish relations with SMEs in their community.
- Some Irish credit unions feel that current mortgage and SME lending restrictions prevent them from growing.

## VII Role Models

### Vancity Credit Union (Canada), Emily Pearson

Emily provided an overview of Vancity Credit Union's sustainability strategy. One of the largest community credit unions in Canada, Vancity serves over 540,000 members via 55 branches in Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, Victoria, Squamish and Alert Bay.

The emissions from activities supported by Vancity's lending are 36 times the credit union's own operations' emissions. To address this, the credit union has set the target of becoming net-zero by 2040 across all its mortgages and loans.

Some of the measures taken to achieve this target include:

- Joining the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) and piloting new accounting methods for the carbon impact of its residential and commercial mortgages
- Launching Planet-Wise Renovation Solutions through which it is offering three options for energy-retrofit financing
- Offering members only responsible investment options via stocks that meet ESG criteria (sales of investment products are permitted for Canadian credit unions)
- Launching Planet-Wise Teardown Financing, an initiative to spotlight how mortgage options can be used to reduce the environmental footprint of home renovations
- Partnering with Climate Smart Business to provide training and technical assistance to organisations on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### Clean Energy Credit Union, USA, Terri Mickelsen

Terri explained that Clean Energy Credit Union was set up in 2017 to provide funding for clean energy projects.

Based in Denver, the credit union serves various organisations passionate about the environment and addressing climate change. Products offered include loans for home improvements, clean energy vehicles, solar electric systems, geothermal heat pump systems and green home improvements. A critical feature of its business model is partnerships with trusted suppliers who implement the home and business improvements.

Despite doing no marketing, the credit union has grown due to its grassroots approach. Since being set just four years ago up it has granted 7,000 loans across 48 states. It will soon move on from 'de novo' status (a kind of probationary period for new credit unions in the US) and has ambitious plans to service small business and introduce other products and services.

### Presenter panel Q&A, facilitated by Nick Money

The two presentations were followed by a questions and answers session during which delegates mentioned that it could be difficult to achieve both loan growth and green sustainability targets. The speakers provided various tips, such as gaining members' support for green lending and interna sustainability initiatives (given the potential investment requirements) and being able to provide a variety of relevant products for them.

## VIII Close

Dr Paul A Jones, Swoboda Research Centre and Liverpool John Moores University

In his closing remarks, Paul highlighted that some credit unions are already among the pioneers when it comes to green lending. He also provided an update on Swoboda Research Centre's latest initiatives, including its Reflection Series, publications that offer a platform for practitioners to share their experience.

## Thank you to Swoboda's Corporate Members

We are grateful to the following organisations who subscribe as Corporate Members. Our Corporate Members are reputable suppliers to the sector who wish to support the work of the Centre.



**OCWM LAW**



## Conference Speakers

**Catherine Davenport** has been Head of Member Services at Capital Credit Union, based in Edinburgh, Scotland, for six years. Catherine joined Capital Credit Union in February 2015, she has twenty-seven years' experience in finance in a range of roles including branch and contact centre management.

Catherine's role is focussed on meeting the needs of its members. This incorporates lending, savings, and all aspects of the member journey. She is passionate about delivering excellent services to members, based on their individual needs. Catherine has achieved DE certificate of achievement in 2016, CUDE certificate of achievement in 2017 and ADE certificate of achievement in 2020.

Contact Catherine: [cdavenport@capitalcreditunion.com](mailto:cdavenport@capitalcreditunion.com)

**Billy Doyle** is CEO of [Dundalk Credit Union](#) in County Louth, Ireland. Billy has over thirty years' experience in the Irish credit union sector with previous roles including those of CEO of the Credit Union Development Association (CUDA) and Strategy Co-Ordinator at Dublin City Council Credit Union (Dubco Ireland). Billy was appointed by the Minister for Finance as a member of the Commission on Credit Unions established in 2011 by the Government to review the future of the Credit Union sector.

Billy has an Advanced Management Program Designation (AMP) from Insead Business School (France), a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the Smurfit Business School, University College Dublin (UCD); a Master of Science Degree (MSc) in Investment & Treasury from Dublin City University (DCU) & a Degree in Public Administration from the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) / Trinity College Dublin. He also holds a Professional Diploma in Credit Union Practice (CUA) from the LIA / UCD.

Contact Billy: [billy.doyle@dundalkcu.ie](mailto:billy.doyle@dundalkcu.ie)

**Dr Paul A. Jones** is a co-founder and Director of Research at [Swoboda](#), and also Reader in the Social Economy at Liverpool John Moores University, where he heads up the [Research Unit for Financial Inclusion](#). He is also visiting lecturer in the social economy at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague. Paul has had over twenty-five years' experience in academic, action and evaluative research in credit union organisational development, financial services for lower and moderate-income households, and money and debt advice services. Paul is a director of Enterprise Credit Union and chairs the Audit & Risk Committee at Manchester Credit Union.

Contact Paul: [p.a.jones@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:p.a.jones@ljmu.ac.uk)

**Seán Farrell** is the Head of Product Development, Marketing & Research with the [Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland](#) (SBCI). Seán joined the SBCI in early 2019 from Bank of Ireland where he worked in roles including Regional Business Banking Manager and as the Bank's Head of Agriculture. Sean has particular experience in the area of financial proposition and product design for the SME and Agri sectors in Ireland, and works with all of the SBCI's stakeholders to deliver lending products for Irish SMEs, and to support economic development in Ireland. Seán also represents the SBCI on the European Long-Term Investors Association (ELTIA) Management Board.

Contact Seán: [sean.farrell@sbc.gov.ie](mailto:sean.farrell@sbc.gov.ie)

**Seán Fleming** is Minister of State in the [Department of Finance](#) (in Ireland) with responsibility for Financial Services, Credit Unions and Insurance. He was appointed to this role in July 2020. Seán was elected to represent the Laois/Offaly Constituency in the 2020 General Election, having been first elected to the Dáil in 1997. A chartered accountant, he was educated at University College Dublin. Seán is a former Chairperson of the Dáil Public Accounts Committee. He was also previously Chairperson of the Oireachtas Finance Committee. Sean was Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Public Expenditure & Reform from 2011 to 2016. Seán was also elected as a Member of Laois County Council in 1999 and served in that role for 4 years.

Contact Seán: [sean.fleming@oireachtas.ie](mailto:sean.fleming@oireachtas.ie)

**Josephine Maguire** is National Co-ordinator – Better Energy at the [Sustainable Energy Agency Ireland](#) (SEAI). Josephine is a chartered accountant who previously worked in both practice and industry. She had a lead role in the establishment of the SEAI, developing the initial systems, processes and governance structures for SEAI and later managing the introduction of the Energy Suppliers Obligation Scheme. She is currently involved in the development and testing of the future strategy for home retrofit, including how to engender low-cost finance into the consumer offering, complementing the One Stop Shop model.

Contact Josephine: [josephine.maguire@seai.ie](mailto:josephine.maguire@seai.ie)

**David McDonnell** has just completed 20 years as Manager / CEO of [Naomh Breandán Credit Union](#) in Galway, Ireland. Previously he had a career in insurance. David is a business graduate of the University of Limerick and a Fellow of the Institute of Banking.

Contact David: [david@naomhbreandancu.ie](mailto:david@naomhbreandancu.ie)

**Terri Mickelsen** has served as the CEO of [Clean Energy Credit Union](#), based in Denver, USA, since its charter in 2017. This online only financial institution opened its virtual doors in 2018 and has since grown to over \$30 million dollars in assets and originated over \$110 million dollars in clean energy loans. Terri's prior experience included over 25 years of credit union management with a focus on online services, call centres and branch operations. As a community member, she has over 20 years of volunteer service including United Way Community Fund Panel Chair and Quality New Mexico Examiner. Terri earned her bachelor's in business administration at the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico.

Contact Terri: [terri.mickelsen@cleanenergycu.org](mailto:terri.mickelsen@cleanenergycu.org)

**Nick Money** is a co-founder and the Director of Development at [Swoboda](#). Nick manages the organisation and is responsible for growing its membership and its impact, as well as undertaking some research himself. Nick has recently commenced a PhD at [University College Cork](#), focusing on the business model of credit unions in Ireland. Nick is a director of South Manchester Credit Union and an honorary Life President at Co-operative Credit Union. Nick has been an independent management consultant to co-operative and not-for-profit enterprises since 2011, advising executives and boards on governance, strategy and business development. He is also a consultancy project supervisor for students on the MBA programme at the Alliance Manchester Business School. Prior to consultancy, Nick worked in a variety of head of function and managerial roles at The Co-operative Bank plc.

Contact Nick: [nick.money@swobodacentre.org](mailto:nick.money@swobodacentre.org)

**Finbarr O'Shea** is a board member at [Cultivate](#) and CEO of [Bantry Credit Union](#), County Cork, Ireland. Finbarr is passionately committed to action-based collaboration as the way forward for Irish credit unions.

Contact Finbarr: [finbarr@bantrycu.ie](mailto:finbarr@bantrycu.ie)

**Emily Pearson** is the Senior Consultant, Climate Business in the Climate Strategy & Performance group at [Vancity Credit Union](#) in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Emily has been at Vancity Credit Union for seven years and held numerous different roles in product management, credit risk, credit innovation, and community investment. In these roles she has supported iterative design initiatives around character-based lending, impact-focused lending criteria, and building partnerships with community organisations and businesses to enable a just climate transition. In Community Investment she managed a large grant fund focused on equity-linked sustainability outcomes and the launch of a five-year focus on Lighter Living. In her current role she works closely with a small team on the strategy and implementation of Vancity's Net Zero by 2040 climate commitment. She supports the development of programs, partnerships, products, policy changes, and staff training that will enable the decarbonization of Vancity's financed emissions, with a heavy focus on building retrofits.

Contact Emily: [emily\\_pearson@vancity.com](mailto:emily_pearson@vancity.com)

**Andrea Reynolds** is CEO of Swoop, based in London, England. Andrea is a Fellow Chartered Accountant, qualifying with KPMG Ireland and then transferring to the London Management Consultancy division working within the Financial Services and Aviation sectors. Since leaving KPMG, she has consulted to both large corporations and SMEs alike. Andrea believes that having a foothold in both enables her to bring innovation to large corporate engagements and bring best practice to start-ups. For the past decade, she has worked with hundreds of SMEs across all sectors to assist them with their fundraising and has achieved over £180m in closed finance deals. In order to scale this experience, Andrea and colleagues have now launched an online platform called Swoop. Swoop combines smart tech with human expertise to match small and medium businesses to the right finance at the right time across loans, equity and grants.

Contact Andrea: [andrea@swoopfunding.com](mailto:andrea@swoopfunding.com)

## Attending Organisations

Swoboda welcomed delegates to the conference from the following organisations:

Ballygall Credit Union, Ireland  
Bantry Credit Union, Ireland  
Black Raven Credit Union, Ireland  
Cantor Fitzgerald Ireland  
Capital Credit Union, Great Britain  
Capital Credit Union, Ireland  
Carrickmacross Credit Union, Ireland  
Claddagh Credit Union, Ireland  
Clonmel Credit Union  
Comhar Linn INTU Credit Union, Ireland  
Co-op News, Great Britain  
Core Credit Union, Ireland  
Credit Union Advisory Committee, Ireland  
CUDA, Ireland  
CUFA Ltd, Ireland / Great Britain & NI  
Department of Finance, Ireland  
Donore Credit Union, Ireland  
Dubco Ireland Credit Union  
Dundalk Credit Union, Ireland  
Health Service Staffs Credit Union, Ireland  
Heritage Credit Union, Ireland  
Irish League of Credit Unions, Ireland  
Naomh Breandán Credit Union, Ireland  
No1 CopperPot Credit Union, Great Britain  
Palmerstown Credit Union, Ireland  
Public Service Credit Union, Ireland  
South Manchester Credit Union, Great Britain  
Strategic Banking Corporation Ireland  
Sustainable Energy Agency Ireland  
Swoboda Research Centre, Great Britain & Ireland  
Synergy Credit Union, Ireland  
Swoop, Great Britain & Ireland  
TransaveUK Credit Union, Great Britain  
University College Cork, Ireland  
University of Manchester, Great Britain  
University of Limerick, Ireland

## About the Swoboda Research Centre

The Swoboda Research Centre (Swoboda, [www.swobodacentre.org](http://www.swobodacentre.org)) is a not-for-profit research organisation incorporated in 2016 in Dublin, Ireland. Its mission is to undertake high quality research, to lead on ideas and innovations, and to explore tested solutions related to credit unions, co-operative banks and similar not-for-profit providers of community-based financial services in Europe.

The Centre is rooted in values of co-operation, participation, social and financial inclusion, transparency, integrity, and excellence. Much of its work is done in collaboration with Liverpool John Moores University.

Swoboda is financially supported by the subscriptions of its members, by donors desiring to support its work, and by project grants from foundations, governmental bodies, and others who commission specific research that is consistent with the Centre's mission and values.

Although the Centre seeks suggestions and critiques on its work from its members and other funders, it is an entirely independent organisation, and it is solely responsible for the work it performs and publishes. The contents of its research papers and any opinions they may contain are in each case solely those of their authors, and they should not be attributed to members, funders or any other third parties.

Swoboda holds two conferences each year, featuring speakers on topics of immediate, practical importance to credit unions. The conferences bring together sector professionals and volunteers, along with government regulators, trade association and other co-operative organisation representatives, charities and NGOs, and providers of services to the sector. Attendance is free for Swoboda members, the number of free delegates depending on membership level.

Please consider joining other leading credit unions by becoming a member of the **Swoboda Research Centre**.

**For more information, please contact Nick Money, +44 7540 259053, [nick.money@swobodacentre.org](mailto:nick.money@swobodacentre.org).**

# Membership of Swoboda Research Centre

\* Denotes Founding Member - these organisations supported the inauguration of CFCFE in 2017

## Credit Union Platinum Members

**Comhar Linn INTU CU\***,  
Ireland  
**Core CU\***, Ireland

**Dundalk CU\***, Ireland  
**Health Services Staffs CU\***,  
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**Progressive CU\***, Ireland

## Credit Union Gold Members

**Capital CU\***, Ireland  
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**Glasgow CU**, Scotland  
**Life CU\***, Ireland  
**NHS CU\***, Scotland

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**Savvi CU\***, Ireland  
**TransaveUK CU**, England  
**Tullamore CU\***, Ireland

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**St Canice's CU**, Ireland

## Credit Union Bronze Members

**1<sup>st</sup> Alliance CU**, Scotland  
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**Cardiff & Vale CU**, Wales  
**Celtic CU**, Wales  
**Claddagh CU\***, Ireland  
**Clockwise CU**, England  
**Clonmel CU**, Ireland  
**Community CU**, Ireland  
**Co-operative CU**, England  
**Donore CU**, Ireland  
**Dragonsavers CU**, Wales  
**First Rate CU**, England

**Great Western CU**, England  
**Heritage CU**, Ireland  
**Hoot CU**, England  
**Just CU**, England  
**London Mutual CU\***,  
England  
**Manchester CU**, England  
**Member First CU\***, Ireland  
**Metro Moneywise CU**,  
England  
**Naomh Breandán CU**,  
Ireland  
**Palmerstown CU**, Ireland  
**Partners CU**, England

**Penny Post CU**, England  
**St. Jarlath's CU\***, Ireland  
**Salford CU**, England  
**Saveeasy CU**, Wales  
**Smart Money Cymru CU**,  
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CU**, Ireland  
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**Filene Research Institute**,  
USA

**Financial Inclusion Europe**,  
Belgium

## Swoboda Research Centre Board of Directors

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