

Dear ARCISS member

"We realise that at the moment you probably don't receive frequent enough communications from ARCISS. We would like to put this right. As a result we have a number of ideas about how to improve communications and active engagement with you.

1. We are starting a regular newsletter and would like to include profiles of member organisations, a calendar of events where you tell us what's happening in your organisation - such as seminars, major new research funding, publications etc and issues which you think would make interesting discussion topics. We will of course also include within the Newsletter information specific to ARCISS such as forthcoming event information and summaries of past events. We think it would be worthwhile you forwarding this email onto your marketing/ publicity people as it would be good to get their involvement in our plans.
2. ARCISS is also regularly approached by organisations such as the ESRC, HEFCE and Central Government to provide input on issues of interest to the social science community - we would be keen to hear your views on important matters that effect research centres and any ideas about how we should take them forward. We are keen to publish think pieces or comments in the newsletter on important matters i.e. REF/ Impact and Research Centres role.
3. ARCISS undertakes regular events and we are keen to get any ideas from Centres themselves about possible events we should be running. We are always looking for new ideas and it is important that we try to hold events that are useful to the operation and function of the membership. If you have any thoughts on this we would be pleased to hear from you.
4. One of the major advantages of being a member of ARCISS should be the opportunity to network with your colleagues in other research organisations. We hope by increasing communication and interaction between members we will be able to make the most of this opportunity. There are lots of common issues that affect us all and often we can be working in isolation when it should be quite easy to get in touch with like minded people. If you have suggestions of ways in which networking could be improved then we are more than willing to take them on board.
5. At the same time as introducing the newsletter we are going to try to increase the use of the ARCISS website. Perhaps member organisations would like to start this process by adding a link to their organisation's website and ARCISS can reciprocate - [www.arciss.ac.uk](http://www.arciss.ac.uk)? We want the webpage to be more interactive and useful to all members. It should allow us not only to increase the profile of the work of ARCISS but also its membership – do get in touch and let us know if your organisation would like to be highlighted on the webpage.

We hope that an improved website and a regular newsletter will combine to enhance your experience as a member of ARCISS. We look forward to hearing your views and receiving any suggestions for items for our newsletter. Please do email us back with your responses to [g.clisham@niesr.ac.uk](mailto:g.clisham@niesr.ac.uk)

**We look forward to hearing from you, best wishes,**

**Gill Clisham, Alan France and Nigel Meager - on behalf of the ARCISS executive committee**