To our readers,

Many of you may have asked yourselves, why you have not yet not received the 2005 first issue of „Concepts and Transformation“ (CAT). The reason is: CAT will not be continued as before. We have changed our publisher, and will publish the „International Journal of Action Research“ instead. We think that the new title, which was the subtitle of the former CAT, is precisely to the point of the journal’s focus, and we trust it also corresponds to your personal and professional interests.

We will maintain and further develop the best elements of the former „Concepts and Transformation“, especially

– the focus on the dialogical relationship between theory and practice
– the dialogue on the present situation and further perspectives of action research with contributions from the leading persons in the field
– an open undogmatic understanding of action research centered on the notion that organizational, regional and other forms of social development should be understood as multidimensional processes and viewed from a broad socio-ecological, participative and societal perspective

You are now holding in your hands the first issue of the „International Journal of Action Research“. It is a special issue about the Latin American tradition of, and experiences with, participative action research, introduced by an interview with Orlando Fals Borda, and written by well known Latin American authors, who practice action research, such as Carlos Rodrigues Brandão, Danilo Streck, Michel Thiollent and others.

In Latin America action research is deeply embedded in society. Hence its impact on social movements and social change is much greater than it is in Europe. Albeit the origins of action research are European and without ignoring the importance and success of many an action research process in Euro-

International Journal of Action Research 1(1), 5-6
ISSN 1861-1303, © Rainer Hampp Verlag, www.Hampp-Verlag.de
pean contexts, it is necessary to recognize that Latin American action researchers have contributed fundamentally to strengthen the actual social and political meaning of action research.

The present issue of the “International Journal of Action Research” provides an opportunity for European action researchers and social science in general to learn from recent action research developments in Latin America. I want to thank especially the guest editors of this issue, Danilo R. Streck and Carlos Rodrigues Brandão, for their profound selection of papers on Latin American participatory research, which provide an insight into the perspectives of action research in social contexts different from those in Europe.

To be brief: You may take this present issue as an example, and as a promise as well, that the “International Journal of Action Research” is and will continue to be as interesting and intellectually challenging as the best issues of the former „Concepts and Transformation“.

Therefore the editors of the “International Journal of Action Research”, Richard Ennals, Øyvind Pålshaugen and myself, trust that you will maintain your interest in our journal and in our editorial work. Moreover our new publisher, Rainer Hampp Verlag, is very dedicated to the new journal; it will be, I am sure, a good new home for the journal, its authors and editors.

Last not least I should mention, that the price for institutional subscriptions has been reduced from 160 € for CAT to 60 € for the “International Journal of Action Research”. This means we have the same price for individual and for institutional subscriptions. We will, as before, publish three issues per year. Vol. 1 (2) 2005 will be published in October, the third one in December 2005.

Thank you very much for your interest in the “International Journal of Action Research”.

Werner Fricke