

ONE MORE YEAR, AND LATER?

The current issue completes the annual volume 44 of the *Interciencia* journal. In addition to revealing a prolonged trajectory for a Latin American multidisciplinary scientific journal of a non-institutional nature, it has a very special significance for the group of people responsible for its production. The journal has succeeded to affirm, and strengthen, its multidisciplinary character, and maintain its indexation, its trilingual character and its monthly uninterrupted punctual publication since 1976. It has become the cornerstone activity of the Interciencia Association to which the journal belongs

Notwithstanding, the concluding year has been one of important changes and of even more important uncertainties about the future of the journal. Since 2014, given the multiple problems in order to produce the journal without the support of the official organisms of science and technology in Venezuela, where it was established and was produced since its beginnings, it welcomed the support of a Chilean university, with which it subscribed an agreement that permitted a close collaboration. The Association was registered in Chile and the editorial offices were moved to Santiago, and *Interciencia* was able to carry on without problems. However, the terms of the aforementioned collaboration changed drastically in the last year and, currently, the journal needs to look for newer alternatives that allow its continuity.

The Interciencia Association is actively searching among its member associations or other instances the possibility to host its production and, thus, maintain one of the very few multidisciplinary publications of a regional character in Latin America. This implies financial support to make it viable and to revise and update the guidelines that shall orient its nature, scope, and the resulting editorial policy.

It will be the responsibility of those who undertake this challenge to evaluate the work of the current editorial staff and its weariness after long years of work, as well as the fundamental changes that the contents of the journal show in recent times, and to determine the future priorities. There are many questions to be faced: Is there any sense in the manifest opening towards the social sciences? Does it make any sense to maintain and even strengthen the multidisci-

plinary and trilingual character of *Interciencia*? Should any or some determined disciplines be emphasized? Should the present guidelines and requirements for publication be kept or modified? Should the contents be oriented by invitations to address specific subjects? Is there any sense in resuming the production and distribution of a printed version?

The future editorial advisory committee and the new group responsible for the project ought to appoint a new International Consulting Editorial Board and establish the guidelines for the production of the journal and the conditions to make it possible. It will also be necessary to take decisions concerning the required resources and the possible available sources, including funding by some official entity or a given member association, or the possibility of implementing an obligatory page charge, which up to now has been handled as a voluntary contribution, sufficient to cover the production costs.

Latin America is going through difficult economic and political times of many orders. The economies of the countries of the region face important setbacks, which do not make auspicious the moment to start initiatives such as this new phase of *Interciencia* could be. But, on the other hand, the scientific community of the region requires adequate diffusion media of the highest possible quality in order to validate and provide a good option to publish research results of its scientific community. Inasmuch as researchers need to publish in order to maintain their academic (and in many cases economic) status, the higher education and research institutions need to show tangible results that justify their fees and their budgets.

If we are to be guided by a constructive logic, it should not be a problem to maintain a serious scientific publication, but it will require the steadfast support of the member associations.

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