

52nd INTERNATIONAL LEIPZIG FESTIVAL FOR DOCUMENTARY AND ANIMATED FILM

26 October to 1 November 2009

the **Healthy Workplaces Film Award** along with € 8 000
granted by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU OSHA)
to the film

A Blooming Business by Ton van Zantvoort (The Netherlands)



We find the documentary A BLOOMING BUSINESS worthy of the EU OSHA AWARD. We follow Jane and the women from flower farms in Kenya, who work with no social rights, using very dangerous chemicals, without any protection on their day-to-day life, raising flowers to be imported to The Netherlands. The work in the flower farms not only affects the workers, but also has enormous effects on the entire surroundings: hurting the fish and fishermen, and polluting the water of the lake. Being a single mother, Jane – the protagonist – has no choice but to provide for her four young children, even in the price of having sex with her supervisor. What on the surface seems to be a voyage in a pastoralist scenery, evidently becomes a nightmare, and the viewer is gradually exposed to the misery of the workers, as well as to the grave consequences of globalisation. Despite the fact that the film's structure is simple, it has a very shocking effect on the viewer. Passing by the flower market yesterday here in Leipzig, we couldn't avoid thinking about the origin of European flowers made in Kenya. And if you happen to see a bouquet that costs less than 2 Euros, please be suspicious...

The Award is given to an authored, creative and artistic documentary with a specific point of view that convinces the jury by its compelling storytelling, strong characters and excellent filmmaking skills regarding camera work, sound and montage.