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Social firms in Switzerland - an inventory based on current research projects

At present, social firms – that are a potential way to meet the need for (re)integration of disadvantaged people – draw all the attention. All over the world, science and practice show that social and professional integration enterprises are characterized by the diversity of their clients, performances, market strategies and organisational models. Moreover, relationships with the referring public services are developing on the basis of various regulations, in particular because of the Swiss federalism, which results in a complex environment. A few national research projects are trying to take a closer look at various aspects of this environment, so as to identify the success factors and provide better visibility.