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Despite the contextual embeddedness of accountability practices in social work, existing work has largely ignored the relation between accountability strategies of social workers and the context in which they operate. Drawing on analysis of a cross-national case study of accountability strategies of social workers in nonprofit organizations, this article investigates the relation between three context variables (distance, governance model, government finance) and the accountability strategies of social workers. The data (N26) gathered was based on a qualitative mixed method design. In the Dutch case we found that social workers used result-oriented accountability strategies to live up to the performance-based services agreements with the local government. Moreover, we found that the social workers made use of the close distance with the government to negotiate their relevance with the local government. In the Flemish case the social workers also used result-oriented accountability strategies, because of the performance-based services agreements with the Flemish government. However, their negotiation strategies were more limited compared to the Dutch case, because the distance with the national government was bigger. In the German case the social workers only used financial accountability strategies. Despite the close distance, the local government only expected minor accountability information and hardly regulated the nonprofit organization. The study demonstrates that context factors influence the accountability strategies of social workers and highlights the importance of embedding the analysis of accountability practices in the policy context.