Preparations have begun within the EU for the post-2020 round of Structural Funding. In the preliminary documents, great attention is being paid to the role of cities/city regions in transnational/national planning and governance schemes and the dilemmas of multilevel governance. For Bachtler et al. (2017), the effectiveness of territorial policies for structural transformation depends on the quality of governance. The European Commission (2016) recognises that in many metropolitan areas, administrative borders no longer represent the social, economic and environmental reality. The Committee of the Regions (2017) has expressed concerns about the risk of even smaller budgets for regional, urban and rural development in a context where regions and municipalities have to address multiple societal and economic transformations and are expected to achieve social, economic and environmental objectives. This paper how structural funds might be planned and managed through schematised cooperation among EU, national, regional and local/city authorities. The paper will provide a timely investigation in view of the Committee of the Region’s Alliance for a strong Cohesion Policy which is mobilising cities, regions, territorial associations, central governments, EU institutions and civil society. As Eurocities argues, a ‘cohesion policy with a stronger urban and territorial dimension built on meaningful partnership with the local level could be a powerful tool to overcome the challenges Europe is facing today’.