Participation of Irish companies in H2020

- The approach used is about
  - the quality of the participation (improving)
  - bringing new companies to H2020 (increasing)
  - combining a number of ERDF, EU/EEN and nationally funded measures (leveraging synergies)

- SME Instrument - “punching above our weight”
• Enterprise Ireland (EI)
• EI Competitiveness Team - emphasis on lean manufacturing
• With support from EEN, they have developed an Innovation Health Check............. *considered more user friendly than Commission’s own instrument.*
• Working with the EI-HPSUs Team - identifying new companies - using the Innovation Health Check
• Proposal development supported by the NCP system and central H2020 Office
Enterprise Ireland, as an EEN node, have trained 14 other countries in the use of the Innovation Health Check.
Improving industry participation in H2020 is probably easier to achieve when an innovation or enterprise development-style agency is involved:
- which has a wide range of competences, a recognisable client base and a range of supports linked to a company life-cycle at its‘ disposal and,
- which also has some political responsibility for stimulating and supporting engagement with EU Programms.

In this context - leveraging synergies helps to widen participation.