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How to Prepare for a Brexit-Size Disruption

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Fallout from Britain's EU exit underscores the importance of contingency planning.

The repercussions of “Brexit,” Britain’s momentous decision to exit the European Union (EU), will reverberate across the globe for some time. But one striking conclusion from the many analyses of the June vote is that companies were not prepared for this game-changing event.

“Businesses were largely taken by surprise by [the] vote to leave the EU and few had contingency plans,” reported

(<https://next.ft.com/content/b95af98a-4e5e-11e6-88c5-db83e98a590a>) the *Financial Times*. Even the British and the EU

governments seemed ill-prepared. According to an analysis (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-eu-has-no-brexit-plan-either-1467837042?mod=djemalertEuropenews>) in the *Wall Street Journal*, “Europe’s frustration at the lack of a British plan shouldn’t obscure the fact that the European Union doesn’t have a clear roadmap to deal with the Brexit crisis either.”

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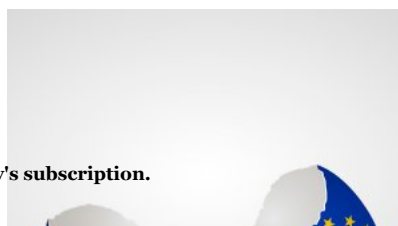
This article is part of an MIT SMR initiative exploring how technology is reshaping the practice of management.

Which begs the question: Is it possible to prepare for a Brexit-like disruption?

On the one hand, it seems almost foolhardy not to be prepared. After all, it's not as though the referendum

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