

Founder profiles: Stephan Breidenbach, Till Behnke, Ina Remmers

Prof. Dr. Stephan Breidenbach

Prof. Dr Stephan Breidenbach is a co-founder and Chairman of the Rulemapping Group. As a lawyer, university lecturer, mediator and entrepreneur, he has spent over 30 years exploring how digitalisation can make complex legal and social decision-making processes more accessible and comprehensible. Following professorships in civil law and mediation at the European University Viadrina and the University of Vienna, he founded the company KnowledgeTools, where he focuses on the digitalisation of legal proceedings and administrative processes. As early as 1993, he developed the basis for the Rulemapping method – a graphical representation of legal decision trees – to illustrate complex thought processes to students. As founder and Chairman of the Rulemapping Group, he is now taking this work to the next level: together with Till Behnke and Ina Remmers, he is creating innovative solutions for citizen-centred and efficient administration, which are funded by SPRIN-D as a ‘breakthrough innovation’ and simplify access to justice.

Till Behnke

Till Behnke is co-founder and CEO of the Rulemapping Group. As an experienced social entrepreneur, he has been pioneering work in the field of social cohesion for over 20 years. Having founded betterplace.org, Germany’s largest fundraising platform, and nebenan.de, Germany’s largest neighbourhood network, he is now dedicated to transforming bureaucratic processes through the Rulemapping Group. Together with Ina Remmers and law professor Stephan Breidenbach, he is working towards the goal of making government structures efficient, citizen-centred, transparent and sustainable, in order to strengthen trust in democracy.

Vita

Till Behnke (born 1979) is a social entrepreneur with many years’ experience in developing digital platforms to promote social cohesion. In 2007, he founded the platform betterplace.org, Germany’s largest fundraising platform, to make charitable projects more transparent and accessible. From 2014 to 2015, he set up several foundations in London and various countries in Africa and Latin America for the mobile telecoms company Millicom/Tigo. In 2015, together with Ina Remmers, he founded the platform nebenan.de, which strengthens local communities and brings neighbourhoods together. This was followed in 2024 by the founding of the Rulemapping Group, through which Till is committed to simplifying and speeding up bureaucratic processes in order to foster trust in democracy. He has received numerous awards for his work, including an Ashoka Fellowship, a nomination for ‘Best Social Entrepreneur’ at the German Startup Awards, and, in 2010, selection by Capital magazine as one of the 40 most important up-and-coming managers under 40.

Motivation & Purpose

Till Behnke is convinced that digital innovations can drive social change. His experience as a young rugby player in South Africa, where he witnessed social inequalities first-hand, shaped him and inspired a desire to strengthen social structures. With betterplace.org, he created a platform that helps people get involved in charitable projects. He continued this approach with nebenan.de, aiming to strengthen local communities and connect people through neighbourhood networks. Today, through the Rulemapping Group, he is exploring how bureaucracy can become a lever for social cohesion. Together with Ina Remmers, Stephan Breidenbach and three other colleagues, he is pursuing the vision of a citizen-centred, sustainable state in which bureaucracy is not an obstacle but a lever for social cohesion. For Till, one thing is clear: a state that makes swift and transparent decisions builds trust, fosters innovation and strengthens democracy – a state that sets Germany in motion.

Ina Remmers

Ina Remmers is co-founder and managing director of the Rulemapping Group. As a dedicated social entrepreneur, she has been doing pioneering work to promote social cohesion for over 20 years. Following the successful launch of nebenan.de, she is now focusing her efforts on transforming bureaucratic processes through the Rulemapping Group. Together with Till Behnke and law professor Stephan Breidenbach, she aims to make government structures citizen-centred, transparent and fit for the future, thereby strengthening trust in democracy.

Vita

Ina Remmers (born 1983) is an expert in social entrepreneurship and community building. After completing her studies, she worked as a freelance brand consultant and communications strategist. In 2003, she founded the non-profit organisation 'Junge Helden' (Young Heroes) with Claudia Kotter and other friends, which is dedicated to raising awareness about organ donation. In 2015, she launched the platform nebenan.de to strengthen social cohesion within local communities. To ensure that this sense of community also functions at a broader societal level, she founded the Rulemapping Group in 2024 and now works to simplify and speed up bureaucratic processes. In 2020, she was named 'Best Female Founder' at the German Startup Awards in recognition of her work.

Motivation & Purpose

Having grown up in small villages in the Ore Mountains and the Swabian Alb, social cohesion has always been a matter of course for Ina Remmers. To strengthen this principle, she founded nebenan.de, Germany's largest neighbourhood network. But for community life – whether at a local or national level – to really work, clear and understandable rules are needed. That is why Ina, together with Till Behnke, set up the Rulemapping Group. Together with her team, they are pursuing the vision of a citizen-centred, sustainable state in which bureaucracy is not an obstacle but a lever for social cohesion. For Ina, one thing is clear: a state that makes swift and transparent decisions builds trust, fosters innovation and strengthens democracy – a state that sets Germany in motion.

"Rulemapping is more than just a means of improving efficiency – it lays the foundations for a new relationship between the state and society. By streamlining bureaucracy and making it transparent, we are restoring trust in state institutions and strengthening democratic cohesion."

Ina Remmers, Managing Director Rulemapping Group

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