

## European Marom Members Meet in Berlin

By Udi Givon, Director of Marom Olami

The Marom European Seminar took place in Berlin on May 19 – 22 with 90 participants from Portugal, Spain, France, Germany, Czech Republic, England, Hungary, Ukraine, Russia, and Israel. The theme of the Seminar, "Jewish Renewal in Europe", was emphasized through tours of Jewish Berlin, workshops, discussions and a very moving shared Shabbat experience.

Among the many discussions on a variety of educational topics, participants had the opportunity to learn about the Masorti Movement in general. Program opportunities for visiting Israel under "MASA" programs, including Hemshech, the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem and other long-term programs, were presented. The participants were encouraged to come to Israel for a minimum of one semester, on any appropriate program, as it is felt that this long-term experience will best build Jewish identity and Zionist commitment. MAROM is faced with an enormous challenge in marketing programs and the need to spread the word about all the opportunities for visiting Israel was stressed.



An added benefit of the seminar was to provide the participants, who often feel isolated from other young Jewish adults, with the feeling that they belong to the worldwide movement of Masorti Olami, sharing the Masorti ideology and exploring ways to enjoy the wonders of traditional Judaism in a modern world.

We are convinced that the person-to-person contact and the personal support of colleagues from the various branches of MAROM that result from these MAROM Seminars can stimulate enthusiasm for developing new initiatives in MAROM Europe. The inexpensive flights and sophisticated train transportation available throughout Europe, as well as easy internet and email access, all contribute to the ease of organizing local seminars, retreats, social activities and other projects allowing members of the various branches to keep in close contact throughout the year. The opportunity to meet people from different places who daven in the same way, confront similar problems of Jewish identity, assimilation and anti-Semitism, is an important outgrowth of our MAROM Seminars and needs to be a continual, on-going process.



We thank Rabbi Shlomo Fuchs, Dr. David Levine, Rabbi Daniel Goldfarb, Rabbi Chaim Weiner, Ms. Gila Katz and Ms. Avigail Ben Aryeh for teaching and sharing their ideas with members of MAROM Europe. We are already looking forward to the next European seminar in 5756.