1) Status of implementation
The Dutch Argo programme, run by the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI), started in 2004. Three floats were deployed that year between Spain and Ireland. In 2005 four floats were deployed in the Irminger Sea. The deployments were done by the Dutch research vessel Pelagia, which is operated by the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ).

2) Present level of (and future prospects for) national funding for Argo including summary of human resources devoted to Argo.
Approved funding for 2006 will again allow to purchase three or four more floats and to cover the costs of deployment and telecommunication. One person (Andreas Sterl) is working on ARGO. He does so besides his other duties.
At present, funding is decided on a year-to-year basis as part of the regular KNMI budget. KNMI is now in the process of overhauling their complete observation strategy, part of which is Argo. In this strategy the (funding) level of each component in the observation system that KNMI contributes to will be fixed. Argo has to compete with, e.g., surface drifters, VOS ships, radiosondes, satellites, to mention only a few. Decisions will probably be made in 2006.
For Argo a funding level sufficient to sustain a fleet of approx. 30 floats is sought. Given a lifetime of about 4 years for a float this means purchase of about eight floats per year, plus communication. There will be no money for dedicated cruises to launch the floats. Opportunities will be sought on (research) vessels that sail into “interesting” regions. If approved the program would be fully operational.

3) Summary of deployment plans (level of commitment, areas of float deployment) and for other commitments to Argo for the coming year (and beyond where possible).
Depending on exchanges rates, three or four floats will be purchased and deployed in 2006, preferably in the Atlantic Ocean. For the years after 2006 see point 2.

4) Summary of national research and operational uses of Argo data
Nothing done yet.

5) Issues that your country wishes to be considered (and resolved) by AST regarding the international operation of Argo
Nothing.