Preface

This research on the social cost of addictive substances in Belgium, called ‘SOCOST’, was commissioned by the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) in the framework of the Federal Research Programme Drugs. The SOCOST study is the result of cooperation between two universities: Ghent University, Institute for International Research on Criminal Policy (IRCP) and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Interuniversity Centre for Health Economics Research (I-CHER). This research was conducted under supervision of prof. dr. Freya Vander Laenen (coordinator), Prof. dr. Koen Putman, Prof. dr. Lieven Pauwels, Prof. dr. Wim Hardyns and Prof. dr. Lieven Annemans (promoters).

The researchers would like to thank everyone who cooperated at this research, in specific the respondents who helped gathering the information. Without their cooperation, the execution of this research would have been impossible. Furthermore, we would like to thank Aziz Naji and the members of the SOCOST steering committee for the professional guidance and important feedback throughout the research project. Special thanks also goes to prof. dr. Jonathan Caulkins for his constructive and critical remarks.