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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Presentation -- Introduction -- Chapter 1 - Niklas Luhmann's Social Systems Theory - Concepts -- Chapter 2 - General application of the theory -- Chapter 3 - Health Systems - Methodological issues -- Chapter 4 - Health Systems Thinking and Social Systems Theory -- Chapter 5 - Health Systems Thinking Tools and Social Systems Theory -- Chapter 6 - Health Systems Strengthening and Systems Theory -- Chapter 7 - Health Organizations and Poly-contextuality -- Chapter 8 - Critics' Views about Luhmann's Theory -- Chapter 9 - Prospects and Examples -- Final Remarks - Science or Technology -- References -- Annex - Advanced Topics.
Sommario/riassunto	While it has become fashionable in the arena of international health to think about health systems, the theoretical underpinning of Niklas Luhmann's vast and productive theory has been given too little consideration in the field. It is rich in concepts that can facilitate a fuller understanding of what health systems are. Joao Costa applies these concepts and shows the analytical possibilities they open up. He argues concisely how Luhmann's Social Systems Theory offers an integrated theoretical body as well as a consistent articulation of concepts that can lay the groundwork for a vastly improved health systems thinking.