PRICE WEB SCRAPING IN WESTERN ASIA

ICP Technical Advisory Group Meeting
February 2020
Washington, DC
DEVELOPING THE IDEA

- Western Asia’s ICP team aimed to modernize price statistics in the region by introducing technology and big data.

- The ICP RIA in Western Asia chose 3 pilot countries to launch its newest initiative: the application of web scraping in price data collection.

- Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar will implement web scraping techniques in collecting prices for HHC-FETI in 2020.

- Training was conducted for Bahrain and Kuwait in January and February 2020 respectively, and training will be conducted for Qatar in March 2020.

- Web scraping represents a complementary data collection methodology to the traditional field collection and does not intend to replace it.
This initiative can be applied in both CPI and ICP price collection

It boosts data collection efficiency by centralizing the collection process

It enables more frequent data collection

It results in more accurate data as the automated process does not allow for data entry errors

It can be used as an additional validation tool for revision of field-collected data
Each country provided the regional office with a list of websites for FETI outlets

The regional team worked on coding the web scraping scripts for each website

Each website presented a different case and new challenge

However, the regional team was able to scrape prices from the provided websites, developed a template for each country and trained the national teams on web scraping using python
WEB SCRAPING EXAMPLE

1. Website is chosen
2. Code is written
3. Data is obtained in excel spreadsheet
THANK YOU